

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 17, 2013

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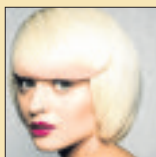
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Heathens joy

Title ends 30 years of hurt for speedway team

Sport – Pages 47 & 48



More than 5,000 in hunt for Tesco jobs

TESCO received 5,000 applications for the 350 jobs created at its new store opening at a £50 million shopping development in Stourbridge.

Bosses at the supermarket, which is in the town centre at the end of the month, were inundated with almost 15 job hunters chasing each available position.

This week bosses also revealed their hopes that other shop units built as part of the Crown Centre complex would help to create 50 jobs.

Seven units have been marketed by Birmingham-based BWD retail property consultants, which has received both local and national interest in the site. Three units will be taken by Kents Barbers, Cafe Rimski and Eyewise Opticians.

Preparations are under way for the Tesco Extra store to open at 8am on October 31, with all the staff now having been trained.

Forty-five of the positions have gone to young people and 100 of the new recruits took part in a Regeneration Partnership programme, which ring-fenced a number of jobs for the long-term unemployed.

They have filled a variety of roles from team leaders to fishmongers and customer assistants.

Police probe gun incident

GUNSHOTS were fired in Dudley in the early hours of Tuesday, police have revealed.

Police were called to Stourbridge Road, Dudley, at around 12.40am following a report that shots had been fired.

Officers found damage to the window of a flat. No-one was injured. The area was cordoned off for forensic examination to take place with the road closed for around an hour.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call police on 101.

JOBS AND ARTS FACE NEW CUTS

Report by Heather Large

JOBS are under threat as part of a shake-up of Dudley Performing Arts as the borough's council chiefs look to cut £178,000 from its budget.

Staff are being consulted about restructuring plans for the service, which runs music and dance concerts and classes for youngsters across the borough.

The latest cut-backs follow a reduction in funding for the service in 2011, which saw it forced to cancel two major music festivals which used to attract up to 5,000 people each.

Staff have been warned about 'the possibility of redundancy', say council officials.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services and lifelong learning, said: "As part of the budget setting process which was agreed last year, we are in the middle of consulting staff over a restructure."

He said the council remained 'fully committed' to performing arts in the borough and the 'important part that can play in young people's lives'.

Venues

DPA organises an annual summer festival held in Dudley town centre each July as well as spring and winter festivals held at venues across the borough.

Students also take part in a range of borough events such as the civic carol service at Dudley's Top Church and Remembrance Sunday service.

Staff with other arts organisations and local schools to run workshops and events. Last year the council announced plans to save almost £22 million over three years.

It comes on top of more than £30m slashed since 2010, which has seen 487 voluntary redundancies and 74 compulsory redundancies at the authority.

The council needs to save £10.7m in 2013/14, a further £4.8m in 2014/15 and £6.3m in 2015/16.

The budget also included proposals for parks and streets not being maintained as often and garden waste to go uncollected for five months to reduce costs. The council has brought in wheelie bins for household rubbish as part of long-term plans to make savings. Other savings proposed include £1m from management costs and trimming £470,000 from grounds maintenance.

Plans to freeze council tax were also agreed by the cabinet. The move followed the Big Question consultation with residents, which cost £6,000. It showed that while 51 per cent of people were willing to pay more council tax to protect council services, 60 per cent were not willing to accept more than a two per cent rise.

"Our new head office gives us the room to build on those strong local bonds and, as our forward-looking plans begin to mature, we shall be looking to the local community for new personnel to add to the 10 head office roles we have created this year.

"We now have a wonderful base from which to develop all aspects of our business, which in turn will benefit our members, as well as provide additional work opportunities in and around the Dudley area."

Anything Goes for operatic society



All aboard – members of the cast for maritime musical Anything Goes at the town hall
Picture: Paul Costello Photography

A THEATRE group from Stourbridge are making their final dress rehearsals for their production of a classic Cole Porter musical.

Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society will be staging the madcap maritime show, Anything Goes, at Stourbridge Town Hall later next week. The week-long run of show begins on Monday, October 21, and runs until October 26.

The show has been directed by profes-

sional choreographer Mike Capri and produced by society chairman Steve Bracey.

A cast of around 40 actors aged between 15 and 77-years-old will be involved in the show, which includes such songs as I Get A Kick Out Of You, You're The Top and It's De-lovely.

Tickets are priced from £10.50 to £5.50 available by calling the box office on 07504 301 767 or 01384 812 959.

Campaign builds on support of comic

CAMPAIGNERS will host a public meeting to build on the support from comedian Lenny Henry to secure a future for the under-threat Dudley Hippodrome.

Group members thanked the popular Dudley-born comic for his support for their campaign to reopen the Hippodrome as a leading arts and theatre venue.

Henry spoke of his wish for the Dudley Hippodrome to be used as a launch pad for the careers of up-and-coming performers from the town. It came on his return to his home town to receive the Freedom of the Borough accolade last week.

Landmark

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group are planning a public meeting on October 20 at The Station Hotel, in Castle Hill, opposite the landmark theatre building.

Group chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said they were still seeking talks promised by Dudley Council officials after moves to demolish the site were deferred.

Councillors on the authority's planning committee demanded more details from officials and further discussions with interested parties when the plans were put on hold in August.

The friends group is inviting councillors to attend the meeting at 6.30pm, saying it is the perfect opportunity to have a proper debate over the Hippodrome.

Freeman Len – see page 5

Safety check after death

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive after a man died at a car workshop.

It is believed the 53-year-old was crushed while working on a vehicle at a business off High Street, Quarry Bank.

Ambulance crews were called to the scene at around 9.30am on Friday but the man, who has not been named, could not be saved.

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Tunnels walk plan brought forward

PLANS to create a nature walk as part of improvements to the historic Drakelow Tunnels are being brought forward with bosses hoping to start work at the site early next year.

Proposals to turn the tunnels between Kinvor and Wolverley into a museum are already being considered by Wyre Forest District Council with a decision expected shortly.

Site owners Quercus Ilex SA also want to create the nature walk to provide better access to the listed Baxter Monument and to views over

the slope where the tunnels are built. This phase of the scheme was not originally expected to begin until after the museum was up-and-running.

But bosses this week said the walk, estimated to cost thousands of pounds, would now be created at the same time work took place on the museum - if plans are approved.

Obelisk

It is hoped both projects will begin early next year with both the museum and nature walk open to the public in late 2014.

The nature walk would see paths created and landscaping work. The Baxter Monument is a brick obelisk built in the 19th century by William Hancock in honour of 17th century preacher Richard Baxter. Baxter lived in Kidderminster and gave money to the poor of Kinvor.

Site caretaker Sid Robinson said: "If everything goes to plan we are now looking at the work on the museum and the nature walk taking place at the same time. It would be a real benefit to have these two attractions open together."

History of tunnels - see page 6

Roof repair will close library for five weeks

A POPULAR Black Country library will be closed for five weeks while repair work on the roof of the building takes place.

Cradley Library, which will also be redecorated at the same time, and it will be closing its doors from November 4.

The council says the cost of the refurbishment work is expected to be around £17,000.

It is the latest library in the borough to be given a revamp, following work at Dudley and Netherton libraries.

Move to halt sales of cheap strong drink

SUPERMARKETS and off licences in the West Midlands would be asked to sign a deal to stop them selling super-strength alcohol cheaply under plans proposed by the region's police chief.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has been in talks with health and council bosses in Wolverhampton with the aim of stopping city centre off licences selling high-proof alcohol cheaply.

The proposals have been put forward in a bid to tackle booze-fuelled crime and, if successful, Mr Jones said the voluntary scheme would be rolled out across the Black Country and the whole of the West Midlands.

The police chief said he wants to put an end to a culture of "beer cheaper than water" in stores.

Currently, a similar model exists in Ipswich where 70 per cent of off-sale sites have signed up to the scheme. Since it was implemented, anti-social behaviour and street drinking has dropped.

Mr Jones said: "We are keen to look at how it is being used in Ipswich before it is introduced here.

"What we don't want to do is bring it into a town or city centre then someone simply walks across the border and buys their cheap alcohol there."

Essential

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for libraries, said: "Unfortunately we need to close the library in order for these essential improvement works to be carried out, but would remind library users that other libraries are available nearby including Halesowen, Long Lane and Lye."

Last year self-service technology was fitted at the Cradley building. The machine allows visitors to borrow and return books themselves and is also designed to free staff so they can focus on helping people in the libraries.

A £208,000 revamp of Dudley Library was also completed. Meanwhile, children and young people visiting libraries in the borough are being asked to take part in a survey which will help design services in the future. It will run from October 21 for two weeks.

Councillor Turner said: "It's really important that children and young people have the opportunity to tell us what they like or dislike about their library to ensure we deliver a library service that is in tune with what they want."

While Cradley library is closed, people can call 01384 812980 to renew books.

Blooming marvellous pub



Landlord Ted Etheridge pictured with his award at the Britannia Inn, High Street, Wollaston

A WOLLASTON pub is getting as well known for its blooms as its beer.

The Britannia, in High Street, Wollaston, is the toast of the prettiest pubs in the region after winning the Best West Midland Floral Display in the Enterprise Pub floral competition.

The pub was picked for the accolade after impressing visiting judges with its 6ft high dahlias and colourful lilies and wall flowers.

The floral display is down to the work of Ted Etheridge, father of pub manager

Wayne Etheridge. Ted has a background in running pubs, having managed The Station and Prince of Wales in Hagley but he also had a stint managing a garden centre.

He said: "We decided to put extra effort in this year following the success of Stourbridge in the Heart of England in Bloom awards."

"Everyday I've been tending to the flowers and considering the mixed weather and the fact it's October, the display is looking good."

Emily sings her way to next round



Emily Badger - on her way

A TEENAGER from Tivendale has made it to the penultimate round of a national singing competition.

Emily Badger has got through to the area finals of the Open Mic UK 2013 contest which celebrates the best unsigned singers from across the country.

The 13-year-old, who attends St Michael's C of E High School, Rowley Regis, performed in the regional finals on October 5 at Birmingham's NEC.

She has won through to the next round, which will also see her singing at the NEC on November 24. She could now progress to the national grand final at London's O2 on January 18, where she will be fighting to win a £5,000 cash prize.

Emily has performed The Lord Is My Shepherd at The Hawthorns in front of thousands of West Bromwich Albion supporters and was also invited to perform for Coneye Arts at the Judgestock Festival.

She has been invited back by Albion to perform at their home game against Crystal Palace on November 2.

MP joins the village beat

AN MP accompanied police as they arrested a suspect.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson visited Wombourne Police Station, where he learned about the recent crackdown on crime in Kinvor, in response to concerns raised by residents.

Police have increased their presence in the village and are using number plate recognition technology to catch criminals on the roads.

Mr Williamson accompanied an officer and saw one suspect arrested when he sought to flee.

After the visit he said: "I greatly admire all the hard work that is being undertaken by our local police force. I feel I have a greater understanding of how hard their work really is and I have nothing but praise for their efforts towards keeping the residents of Kinvor - and other nearby villages - safe."

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The charity has a healthy balance sheet and a committed team, but faces a challenging future in terms of funding constraints within local authorities, and increasing pressures generally on costs and income.

We are seeking to appoint new volunteer trustees/directors with a range of business and fundraising skills, and the time and commitments to steer the charity in the coming years.

Appointments are usually for three years with commitment of between six to twelve days a year to attend Board and Sub-Committee meetings. Trustees are unpaid but may be reimbursed for reasonable out of pocket expenses.

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Shine like a star at mayor's big fundraiser

A VARIETY show featuring performances by a host of groups will be held at Dudley Town Hall to raise money for charity.

Shine will be held on Tuesday, October 22 from 7pm to 9.30pm and will feature the talents of performers from Dudley with learning difficulties. Doors open from 6.30pm.

The evening will be a mix of entertainment including drama productions by local groups Side by Side Theatre Company and Halas Homes Performing Arts Group. There will also be singing, guitar and dancing.

Finale

The evening's finale will be a sing-along medley including a performance of Take That's hit Shine, followed by a disco.

Cash from the event will be split between the Mayor of Dudley's charities - the White House Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Mayor Councillor Alan Finch said: "I'm honoured that local people are volunteering their time to put on this evening in aid of my charities."

Tickets cost £5 and £3 for concessions. Contact the box office on 01384 812812 or visit the website www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

More time to join switch on fuel bills

THE deadline to sign up to a scheme that could help people save money on their fuel bills has been extended.

The council launched Dudley's Big Switch recently, which could secure discounted tariffs from energy providers if enough people sign up.

It is part of a national collective energy bidding scheme, where councils across the country go to auction to see which energy company can offer the best tariff for their residents.

The more people that register, the greater the council's bargaining power with energy providers.

The scheme is free to join and there is no obligation if not in line for a saving.

The deadline to register has been extended to November 18. People can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk or by calling Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Traffic delays warning over fire station work

DRIVERS are being warned of a potential fortnight of delays when sewer works start for a new £4 million community fire station in the heart of the Black Country.

The new building is being created on a 1.1 acre site next to Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Cradley Heath.

Facing the Halesowen Road and Barrs Road junction, the building is already taking shape and is due to be fully operational by May 2014.

Diggers and other machinery have been

clearing the site, prepping the way for the work for construction to begin while the foundations are also being put in.

Sandwell Council is now warning motorists to prepare for delays from next week.

Signals

Temporary traffic signals are being set up while the work is carried out to the new station on the site of the former municipal building.

Temporary four-way signals will be set up at the junction of Halesowen Road, Barrs

Road and Beauty Bank. They will be manually controlled during peak periods and drivers are being warned to expect delays.

The work was due to start this week and is not due to be completed until Monday, October 28.

The new building is replacing the present station, in Mace Street, Cradley Heath. Halesowen's own fire station in Hagley Road shut last year amid protests.

Work on the new site started in July and will take around 40 weeks in total to complete.

Councillor John Edwards, chairman of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, has said it is expected the facility will be complete by April, at the earliest.

The station will be a base for 44 firefighters and a fire engine.

Bays

It will have three vehicle bays, with a new brigade response vehicle expected to be housed there from 2015.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service vehicle and crew will also start and end their duties from the site.

Campaigners and MP win bid to get blood clinic back

CAMPAIGNERS have won their bid to bring a blood-testing clinic back to Wollaston.

More than 200 people signed a petition following the loss of the service, which went when a local GP practice closed.

But now a new clinic, to run for four hours once a week, will be brought back to the village from Monday, October 21.

It follows a campaign by Stourbridge MP Margot James and staff at the Three Villages Medical Practice to reinstate the testing service, which used to be held at the Meriden Avenue practice in Wollaston.

Petition

The petition was handed to the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which has now agreed to commission a blood-testing facility to be run in Wollaston - at least for the time being, while a review of similar clinics in the Dudley borough is carried out.

by Louise Jew

The clinic will be held at the Three Villages surgery in Bridgnorth Road on Mondays from 11am until 3pm.

Patients had been forced to travel further for the tests following since the former Meriden Avenue practice closing earlier this year.

MP Ms James had said: "I remember taking my mother for weekly blood tests when she was elderly and what a blessing having a very local service was for us."

"I have been pressing the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group to return this service to the local area."

Dr Liz Pope from the Three Villages Medical Practice said they had met with Dudley CCG's lead commissioner for phlebotomy.

He told them that there was now a phlebotomy service at Greenfield Avenue Surgery, which the Wollaston patients could use but agreed that the needs of the residents of Wollaston were not being met.

Before making their decision to provide blood testing in Wollaston, Dudley CCG spokesperson Laura Broster said: "We are currently reviewing the distribution of clinics for phlebotomy across the Dudley Borough."

"We are aware of the specific issues in Wollaston which have arisen following a practice closure."

Plan for skatepark to be UK's biggest



Wheelie good idea - Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader of the council, Cllr Judy Foster and Gavin Pardoe

PLANS to create the biggest skatepark in the country in Stourbridge have been praised by council bosses after they awarded £40,000 funding to the project.

When it opens, Unit36ty in Mill Race Lane will offer BMX, skateboarding and scooter riding facilities.

It comes after calls from skateboarders for new facilities in the town following the closure of the pRamparts skatepark.

The former park was based in the basement of the former multi-storey Bell Street car park and closed five years ago.

The Unit36ty project has been awarded £40,000 from Dudley Council's community enterprise fund as part of its 'Love your community' initiative.

Graffiti

It aims to provide a safe and secure indoor environment where the sports can take place, whatever the weather or time of year. There will also be a DJ school, graffiti art walls, dance academy and cafe.

Gavin Pardoe, social entrepreneur and owner of Unit36ty, said: "It will be a high profile and high quality facil-

ity that will not only be the best in the borough and the Black Country but the best nationally."

"We will also provide an outlet for budding musicians to jam and spin DJ decks to urban street dancers while graffiti artists capture the mood and display their work about the building."

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy council leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "We have listened to the views of young people who have been advocating the creation of a skatepark. This new social enterprise will work closely with children and young people within the community."

NEWS in brief

War heroes will feature in display

WALL Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group are holding a display at The Cross in Kingswinford on Saturday, November 9, from 10am until 3pm.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley will be attending the event at 11.30 am along with local councillors Dave Tyler and Lynn Boleyn.

The group are putting together a book dedicated to the men of Wall Heath and Kingswinford who lost their lives in the two world wars. The project was launched last November and aims to include a photograph of as many of the men as possible along with their details.

Joy Marshall, of the research group, said "This will be our biggest event so far."

Fashion show is in aid of hospice

A LADIES' autumn and winter fashion show is being organised in Hagley on Monday, November 4, in aid of a hospice.

The event, organised by the Happy Families shop from Hagley, will raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice, based in Stourbridge.

The event, starting at 7.30pm, will be held at Hagley Community Centre.

Tickets are available from Happy Families on 01562 887188 or by calling Sue Williams on 07536 111637.

Basket weaving museum course

PEOPLE can get creative by taking a willow basket weaving course at the Black Country Living Museum.

The one-day beginners workshop takes place on November 9 from 10am to 4pm at the museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley.

The course costs £45 per person and must be pre-booked. Call t 0121 520 8054 or book online at www.bclm.com

Pub licensed to thrill for charity

A PUB has raised £1,100 for the British Heart Foundation following a James Bond-themed casino night at the Shovel Inn in Pedmore Road, Lye.

Harvest success

AN AUCTION of harvest produce has raised £1,500 for charity. It took place at a harvest festival organised by members of the Rotary Club of Dudley.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THIS was the week when the authorities announced that if you arrange an abortion because the unborn baby happens to be a little girl, you will not get into trouble but if you make the little girls sit behind the boys in a Muslim school, you will get into serious trouble. Proud to be British?

□□□□□□□□

PROBLEM? What problem? The ruling classes will not be in the least worried by this week's report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showing England has some of the worst literacy and numeracy rates in the developed world. Rich people know it doesn't apply to their kids who can still get a fine education from as little as £10,000 a year in private schools. It's the state schools, bedevilled by indiscipline, lack of leadership and the chronic dumbing-down of exams, that have allowed reading, writing and arithmetic to slide off the list of priorities. The same report tells us that Britain has the worst levels of social mobility in the Western world. The chances of a working-class kid making it into a top job are worse today than they were 50 years ago.

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THE chief operating officer of Nissan, Toshiyuki Shiga, warned this week that it is "very important" that Britain remains part of the European Union. Sound familiar? In October 2002 Nissan issued another stern warning, that its huge UK operation could be endangered if Britain didn't adopt the euro. Just because they're big, it doesn't always mean they're right.

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WHY is car insurance so expensive? A reader tells me his daughter's new car suffered a tiny, glancing blow in a car park. The main dealer, sensing an insurance claim, quoted £600 for the repair and wanted to take the vehicle away for five days. A local bodyshop fixed it in a single day, for £72.

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ANNIE Lennox condemns the "overtly sexualised" performances of some pop singers. Hang on. Would this be the same Annie Lennox who shocked us back in the 1980s by regularly forgetting to wear a shirt? Looks like a case of the bra calling the thong black.

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THERE is an old belief that prostitutes do not pay income tax, on the grounds that the State would not dirty its hands by taking immoral earnings. This turns out to be an urban myth. Southwark Crown Court this week ordered a former "high-class escort" to pay £175,000 in unpaid tax and costs. At one stage she was earning £1,000 a night. Her excuse was that she was paying her way through university. BED, presumably.

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WHERE do they get the audiences for Any Questions (Radio 4)? The latest, from the solid, hard-headed Yorkshire town of Ilkley, considered making the under-25s report for training in exchange for the dole. So did the good folk of Ilkley want the nation's youth to spend their days festerling away on sofas, or to do summat positive for their money? Astonishingly, the audience voted overwhelmingly for the fester-option. I simply do not believe my fellow Tykes would vote as this audience voted. Maybe they had been bussed in from Lancashire.

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A FRIEND had a scary encounter with a whole bunch of cyclists who were out on an evening ride, which involved flashing lamps on bikes, plus helmet-bulbs and reflective hi-viz jackets. He says this dangerous, dazzling, slow-moving mass of coloured lights looked like something out of Close Encounters of the Third Kind, but without the intelligence.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Thug broke woman's wrist outside pub

A MAN broke the wrist of a woman who tried to stop a fight as violence flared outside a Blackheath pub at closing time, a court heard.

Lena Dell was hurled to the pavement by Brett Dance, after he had been drinking and taking drugs, when she tried to stop him attacking another man in the street. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The fall fractured her left wrist while her friend, Paige Palmer, was

pushed out of the way by 30-year-old Dance.

The court was told the attacker's life had gone off the rails after the break-up of a relationship.

The violence started after Dance realised that his keys were missing as customers waited for taxis outside the Shoulder of Mutton pub in Birmingham Road, in the early hours of February 2.

Mr Patrick Sullivan, prosecuting,

said: "He accused a man in the group of taking the keys and punched him. There then followed a prolonged period of public disorder during which both Miss Dell and Miss Palmer tried to stop the fight."

Mr Richard Hull, defending, said: "This was an aberrant behaviour towards the two women."

He added: "It was the culmination of a period of self destructiveness and self pity by this man after the

ending of a long-standing relationship."

Dance, of Eagle Close, Rowley Regis, admitted assault and causing grievous bodily harm. He was given a 12-month jail sentence suspended for two years with 150 hours unpaid work and four-month night curfew.

Judge Martin Walsh told him: "You had been drinking excessively and consuming cocaine before instigating violence outside the pub."

Second pamper evening is bigger

A FUNDRAISING pamper evening to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month is taking place at a bigger venue following the success of last year's debut event.

Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Club is holding its Pink Pamper evening on Monday, October 21, at the Kingfisher Hotel, Kidderminster Road, Kingswinford, in aid of Breast Cancer Care. Last year's event, at the River Rooms in Stourbridge, raised £2,200 with around 200 people attending.

Lions spokesperson Lesley Ankers said: "We were blown away by the success of last year's event. So many people told us they wanted it to become a regular event."

"It was such a success we felt we needed to hold it somewhere with a little more space for our visitors and those putting on treatments and stalls."

Free treatments include manicures, makeovers, massages and hair styling. There will be stalls featuring soaps, chocolates, cakes, toiletries, cards and jewellery.

Tickets cost £5 and if bought in advance include a free goody bag on the night. For further information see www.kandslions.org.uk or email pinkpamper@kandslions.org.uk

Petition call to keep building bonus local

Society does the Lambeth Walk

RESIDENTS in Hagley are launching a petition demanding that millions of pounds raised by new housing estates should be ploughed back directly into the areas where the homes are built.

The village should benefit to the tune of almost £2 million if money given through a Government scheme to Bromsgrove District Council – following the building of two local developments – was allocated to the local community, says a residents' group.

But the council opted for money awarded through the New Homes Bonus to go into a central district pot, leaving it unclear where the cash would be spent but it looks like it could be anywhere within Bromsgrove district.

And the council's leader, Councillor Roger Hollingworth, had an uncompromising message to Hagley villages – he said he had "no intention of kowtowing" to pressure to the current system.

Hagley Residents Action Group (HRAG), which opposed plans for a 175-home estate and a nearby development of a further 70 homes in the village, is now collecting signatures for a petition calling for such cash benefits to be spent in the areas where the actual building takes place.

by Louise Jew

Group spokesman Peter Rowbottom said: "HRAG believes that it is only fair that the money is put back into affected communities."

"This money would be for communities facing large-scale development to cope with resultant changes and disruption."

Burden

He added: "It would go a long way to helping reduce the financial burden that is being placed on many villages and rural areas that are effectively being upgraded to towns without the full infrastructure that is required."

HRAG wants anyone living, working or using community facilities in the district to sign a petition entitled 'Request for re-allocation of the New Homes Bonus Money to communities directly affected by new housing development'.

The petition can be found online at <http://newhomes.epetitions.net> and residents can lobby their local district councillors on the issue.

Ale memorabilia call

UNUSUAL items associated with breweries and pubs are needed for a charity auction being held at a real ale festival. The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is appealing for donations for its auction, to be held on the last afternoon of the annual Dudley Winter Ales Fair, being held in Dudley Town Hall from November 28 to 30.

Proceeds will be donated to this year's nominated charities – the Dudley branch of Parkinson's UK and White House Cancer Support in Dudley. Last year more than £1,500 was raised for good causes.

To donate e-mail auction@dud.leycamra.org.uk



Michelle Cassells, who plays Lady Jacqueline, with Paul Murdock, who plays Bill Snibson, are both starring in Cradley Heath Operatic Society's production of the famous Cockney musical *Me And My Girl*, updated by Stephen Fry

THE Black Country's oldest operatic society's will be doing the Lambeth Walk in its latest production of a classic musical about a clash between London's East End and high society in the 1930s.

Cradley Heath Operatic Society will be performing their own version of *Me And My Girl* at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, in Bank Street, next month.

Paul Murdock who plays the show's lead Bill Snibson, said: "Not only is this one of my favourite shows but it's also one of the society's as well and we have performed it three times already in our 105-year history."

"It's a real toe-tapping British sing-along, with songs that everyone knows."

"As we celebrate our latest anniversary we are proud that we are still bringing music

hall back to the Dudley area," added Mr Murdock.

The plot follows the story of a Cockney barrowboy pursuing a vast inheritance, while trying to keep his lady love from going astray.

The show features popular songs including the Lambeth Walk, Leaning on a Lamp-post and The Sun Has Got His Hat On. It was originally written by Noel Gay but the troupe of 30 actors from CHAOS will be performing an updated version written by Stephen Fry.

The production will run from Tuesday, November 5, to Saturday, November 9, at 7:30pm each night.

Tickets costing £14.00 will be available at the box office on 0121 585 7380.

Tesco's booze hours limited

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco has had plans to sell booze 24 hours a day from a new multi-million pound store in Stourbridge blocked after fears over late night boozing.

Tesco wanted to sell alcohol to customers all day from its store opening as part of the £50 million Crown Centre development.

Violence

But campaigners said the town had a reputation for lively nights out and revellers would be able to get booze after leaving late night clubs. Fears were raised over booze-fuelled violence in the town centre.

Members of Dudley Council's licensing committee agreed to a compromise by curbing sales at midnight following discussions.

Tesco will only be allowed to sell alcohol between 6am and midnight Monday to Saturday and during Sunday opening hours.

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Publicans celebrate 10 years in charge

A PUBLICAN couple are celebrating having been in charge of their first pub for 10 years.

Gerald and Jayne Lloyd took over The Knight's Quest on Blackheath High Street on October 29, 2003.

To celebrate the couple are running a number of offers and special nights of entertainment this month.

The pair, who are grandparents and live at the pub, had previously been in the catering, having run a cafe in Lye for 12 years and a fish and chip shop in Kinvers.

But The Knight's Quest was their first pub project when they took it on, saving it from potential closure and turning it into a thriving business.

Mr Lloyd, aged 61, said: "The early days were a bit difficult because the pub was going to be knocked down as it had developed a hard reputation for itself. I think we were the 29th licensees in around 14 years.

"So those first few months were tough but since then it's been success after success.

"When we came in it was stabilised and we built the confidence back up. We rely on traditional values, extreme behaviour isn't tolerated - we are a normal pub for normal people."

Mr Lloyd said running a pub had always been something he and Jayne, 55, had wanted to do since they wed 30 years ago. He added: "Pubs have got to be different these days as people just don't socialise like they used to. We have had to change with the times and accommodate what people want."

Game draws charity cash

COUNCILLORS and council workers donned football kit to take on professional coaches in a match.

The event at the Dell Stadium, Brierley Hill, raised £200 for charities. The Dudley Council team battled Dudley Town FC's select XI to a 2-2 draw.

The cash will be divided between White House Cancer Support and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Both causes are supported by Dudley Mayor Councillor Alan Finch during his term. Councillor Finch said: "A draw was about the right result and I would like to thank everyone who took part."

Booming sales sees Holden's expand brewery



Jonathan Holden with the huge new tanks

HUGE storage tanks and vats forming part of a £200,000 expansion of an historic Dudley brewery have been installed.

Construction of a three-storey extension at Holden's Brewery, Woodseton, started a year ago, allowing production to increase from 50,000 pints to 75,000 pints per week. Bosses at the brewery said the finishing touches were now being made to the building, which has been fitted with new storage tanks and vats, and should be finished next month, a month ahead of schedule.

Managing director Jonathan Holden said the good weather over the summer months

had helped work on the extension progress quickly.

"The vats and fermentation vessels have also been installed so the extension is pretty much complete now with only a few finishing touches to be made," he said.

Beer

"We aim for the increase in beer production to start at the end of November. This is around a month ahead of where we expected to be. Obviously this has been a long-running project but we are very pleased with the results.

"It will aid further expansion of the business. We are very impressed with what has been achieved in terms of the building."

The firm was given permission to build a extension in George Street in July 2012.

Bosses decided to expand after a rise in demand for their ales.

The brewery's expansion plans include exporting one of their beers, the Golden Special, to Japan.

Further building work is expected to take place at the site over coming years with plans in the pipeline for a new visitors' centre and brewery tours.

Driver set his own car alight to destroy evidence of crash

A MAN from Old Hill set fire to his own car after it had been involved in an accident in an attempt to destroy evidence, a court heard.

Christopher Rose was spotted by an off-duty police officer, climbing over the wall of the Oldbury garage where the car was being stored at 7.30am on July 2 this year.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told the Rover vehicle had been taken to Star Autos by police following a collision the previous evening.

Hooded

The court heard that Rose, 25, had told the officer: "I haven't done anything."

He had a hooded top under one arm and wrapped in it was the steering wheel of the vehicle which he had removed, the court heard.

Rose, of Heathfield Close, had then made off but was arrested later. The car was found to have been set on fire.

He pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice during the hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

He also admitted a charge of dangerous driving which had taken place on July 7 -

while he was on bail for the earlier offence.

The court was told that Rose had led police on a chase along roads across the Sandwell area cutting up cars and even going through a red light.

The pursuit had ended when the vehicle being driven by Rose collided with a taxi.

A girl passenger in the taxi travelling home from school suffered minor injuries in the smash.

Rose was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment for perverting the course of justice charge and 12 months for the dangerous driving to be served consecutively.

Mrs Blondelle Thompson, defending, said: "All of these incidents are related to my client's drug addiction.

"He is working to address that," she added.

Tennis contest returns to Black Country venue

A MAJOR international men's tennis tournament is returning to Tipton this month for the 13th year running.

The Lawn Tennis Association men's event will be at Tipton Sports Academy, featuring players from across the world. Sandwell Leisure Trust has been successful in bringing the £60,000 tournament back to the borough.

The Tipton Aegon GB Pro-Series Men's competition attracts players who are world ranked on the ATP men's tour. Entry is free for spectators, starting on Sunday and running until Saturday, October 26. For more information contact Lee Marks on 0121 506 4986. There will also be updates of the tournament's progress at www.lta.org.uk

Freeman Lenny thanks hard working town



Comedian and actor Lenny Henry at Dudley Council House where he received the freedom of the borough from the mayor long-serving councillors and army regiments.

FROM being a teenage helper at Dudley Zoo to achieving comedy stardom, Lenny Henry couldn't hide his delight as he received the Freedom of Dudley, saying "this wasn't supposed to happen to me".

The comedian and thespian, who grew up on the Buffery estate, said he was "incredibly moved" to receive the honour from Mayor Alan Finch.

He was on top form when giving his acceptance speech at a special ceremony at the Town Hall last week.

He joked he would have to change career after learning he could now drive sheep up the town's High Street.

But he also thanked the town for providing a springboard for his career, picking out venues including The

Town Hall and Queen Mary Ballroom at Dudley.

Ballroom

"Three minutes on stage at the Queen Mary Ballroom would teach you that real quick, if you ain't funny someone from the Priory Estate would throw a cinder block at you."

In front of civic leaders he also joked about the time spent on debating whether to grant him the honour.

Councillors took six months after questions were raised about the criteria for the award, which is usually handed to

NEWS in brief

Microlight death inquest is opened

AN INQUEST has opened on a pilot who died when his microlight crashed after flying into power cables while landing.

Andrew Tollerton, aged 52, of Gerald Road, Wollaston, died from chest and head injuries in the tragedy. The crash happened at about 6pm on Sunday, October 6, at Barratt's Coppice, off Bridgnorth Road, Stourton.

South Staffordshire Coroner Andrew Haigh opened the inquest at Stafford last week. He adjourned the hearing to await reports, giving a provisional date of March 12 next year.

Mr Tollerton's family paid tribute to him saying he died doing what he loved to do.

Meerkat adoption has royal approval

AN ADOPTION package for Dudley Zoo's three baby meerkats has been given the royal seal of approval. Three meerkat pups, born just before the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's son, were named George, Alexander and Louis in his honour.

Dudley Zoo staff sent an adoption pack to Prince George Alexander Louis and were delighted to receive a thank you letter from Kensington Palace. Zoo chief executive Peter Sudcock said: "We were thrilled to receive the letter on behalf of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. We also sent an invitation for William, Catherine and George to visit us and meet the meerkats."

Book ahead for a traditional bonfire

SPARKS will fly at Black Country Living Museum with a traditional bonfire night on November 5.

The family evening will include a fanfare of barrel organs, a brass band playing popular tunes, roaring bonfire and fire-juggling, as well as a feast of Black Country food.

Tickets are £15.50 adults, £12.40 seniors and £8.25 youngsters. Tickets must be pre-booked on 0121 520 8054 or via the website www.bclm.com

Lantern making sessions at park

CRAFTY children can get help to make their own willow lanterns at Priory Park in Dudley on October 29.

The session runs from 11am to 12.30pm with a parade at 6pm.

M & H FIREPLACES

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

ADVOCATES of mother-and-child parking spaces at supermarkets say it is a matter of safety rather than convenience, which is fair enough. After all, it can't be conducive to child safety making young children walk half-way across a busy car park.

What I don't understand is, given this understandable concern for safety, why so many of the parents who use these spaces find it necessary to drive the wrong way down a one-way system to access them.

Every Saturday I see a steady stream of inconsiderate young mothers, usually in multi-seater people carriers or off-roaders, defiantly driving contrary to the traffic flow at my local supermarket, Tesco at Burnt Tree.

Possession of a child seat and a 'baby on board' sticker does not exempt you from the rules of the road, you know.

□□□□□
ACCORDING to media reports, professional celeb and one-time footballer David Beckham now hopes to split his time between Britain and Los Angeles.

"They want the California sunshine for the kids but the education system of the UK - so they're getting the best of both worlds," said one authoritative source.

The education system of the UK? I wonder which inner-city comprehensive the Beckham offspring will be attending.

□□□□□
SO THE Government is looking at raising the minimum age for driving from 17 to 18, and then placing them under a night-time curfew until they are at least 19. Obviously looking for the youth vote then.

But will it really make any difference? We all know boy racers are a menace to society, but surely the safety of young drivers is less about whether they have celebrated their 18th birthday, and more about their general maturity.

The answer is probably a few more questions on the driving test, I dunno, such as 'have you ever read Loaded magazine?', 'has your car got after-market speakers fitted?' or 'have you ever spent an evening eating takeaways in a car park?' If the answer is 'yes' to any of the above, then it should be a straight fail.

Better still, why not impose new rules on the type of car that young people can drive. Volvo estate, beige Austin Maestro, probably means little threat to the peace and safety of the general public. Rusty old Citroen Saxo with blacked-out windows, boom box and exhaust like a sewer pipe? Five-year driving ban.

Call it possession of an offensive vehicle.



The chilling BBC broadcast centre in the tunnels



An under ground factory where up to 600 worked



Sid Robinson examines the BBC broadcast centre

Opening door on history of tunnels

Below ground lie chilling reminders of the Cold War as **LEE WATTON** found out when he went under ground

A TREE-LINED rural track bordered on either side by sandstone rock is the unassuming entrance to a vast underground complex which was once the centre of vital military operations.

Drakelow Tunnels were used to manufacture machine parts during the Second World War and was designated a regional seat of government in the event of nuclear attack during the Cold War. And the three-mile network of tunnels is still full of reminders of its military past from electrical vehicles used to move components to kitchen equipment once used by staff.

Plans are now in place to transform the tunnels, between Kinner and Wolverley, into a museum honouring the site's past. The scheme has yet to be approved by Wyre Forest District Council.

Ensure

And before any work is carried out, site caretaker Sid Robinson has thrown open the heavy metal door to the complex, north of Kidderminster, to give a glimpse of what is inside.

The first sight is a security booth which would once have been manned to ensure only authorised personnel could gain access to the complex.

Mr Robinson, aged 43, who has overseen the site since the early 1990s, said under the new plans the booth would be restored to its original appearance.

There is the sickbay where staff and occupants would have been treated. Basins are still standing in the room.

Under the museum plan, a window will be fitted to the room and actors will perform an operation from the period on a screen. This will show visitors the kind



Caretaker Sid Robinson opens the door to the Drakelow Tunnels

of medical treatment people using the tunnels could have expected in the event of a nuclear war.

Close by is the BBC Room, from which broadcasts would have been made telling people what was happening after a nuclear attack.

A control desk from the period is still in place along with telephones from both the 1960s and early 1980s.

Mr Robinson said: "It is chilling to think someone would have sat here and reported what was going on if a nuclear war had taken place."

Large areas of the tunnels have been opened up into walkways. These would have originally been taken up by offices, but these structures have since collapsed and been cleared away.

When the tunnels were used as a factory during the Second World War

owners Quercus Ilex SA, a visitor centre would be built. There are also proposals for six houses which would generate cash to fund work on the museum. And the scheme is designed to be phase one of planned improvements for the site.

Once the museum has been established there are also proposals for nature walks giving better access to the listed Baxter Monument and views over the escarpment where the tunnels are built.

The monument is an obelisk which was built in the mid-19th century by William Hancock in honour of 17th century preacher Richard Baxter. There are also plans to restore a series of rock houses near to the tunnel entrances.

Mr Robinson said: "There are a lot of plans for the site. The aim is to bring the tunnels and the surrounding area back into use. It is such a shame to have buildings and tunnels of such historic interest which are not being used in some way."

Effort

"There is a great deal of work to be done before the tunnels are ready and we are always on the look out for people who can donate equipment to us for exhibits." The tunnels were designed by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners and were excavated from the sandstone hills during the conflict.

It was to be a factory for the Rover company, who were manufacturing engines for use in the war effort.

Construction work began in June 1941 but full production did not start at the complex until May 1943. It cost more than £1 million to complete.

During the 1950s, the site was used by the Ministry of Supply for storage. It was developed by the Home Office as a Regional Seat of Government in the late 1950s and modernised during the 1980s.

The site was decommissioned during the early 1990s and sold but firm plans for the site have never been put in place.

Mr Robinson said: "The aim of these plans are to retain the tunnels and highlight their historic importance to the area."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

THE death knell was sounded for West Midlands County Council, just nine years after it had been formed. It was announced that the authority, which covered Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Solihull and the newly-formed borough of Sandwell, was to be disbanded in 1985, with most of its powers being devolved to the main towns and cities.

The seven district councils would continue to work in partnership for policing, public transport, and fire services though.

AN ACTION group protesting against the men convicted of murdering Wordsley paper boy Carl Bridgewater tried to disrupt racing at Warwick. But the bid failed, as the protesters sprayed graffiti and poured oil onto the wrong course.

1993.....

NELSON Mandela arrived in Birmingham to a rapturous welcome, and described the city as his 'home sweet home'. He was given a standing ovation when he spoke at a concert in his honour at Symphony Hall.

ELEVEN England fans were charged after 195 were held in a night of violence in Amsterdam ahead of a World Cup qualifier against Holland. The 11 fans faced allegations of violence.

WHY did the elephant cross the road? To open a new shop. Miss Sandra took a walk across Powke Lane in Cradley Heath to open the new Powell Office Equipment store. The elephant came from Chipperfields Circus which was across the road

2003...

THOUSANDS of homes and businesses received no mail after postal workers walked out for the second time in a month. More than 120 workers walked out of Wolverhampton's Sun Street depot after anonymous racist comments were posted on the staff notice board.

AMBULANCE drivers in the West Midlands were being issued with a staggering 3,000 speeding tickets every year after being caught by roadside cameras.

A BUSINESS leader called for a football-style loan transfer system to stop skilled workers leaving the area. Dudley divisional director of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, George Munro, said a similar scheme had been launched in the north-east



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LETTERS

Donors dismayed by rude nurses

I WAS interested to read Paul Oakley's letter in The Chronicle. I removed myself from the blood donor register four years ago after also clocking up 30 plus years of donations. I wrote to BTS to explain my decision.

Over the last few years I have seen a difference in how donors are treated by the staff at BTS sessions.

Fewer nurses per donor. I assume this is a cost-cutting exercise but seeing so few trying to deal with three, four or more donors each does not give any new donor confidence that they are being looked after sufficiently.

Tackle those tax avoiders

THERE is rightly an HMRC campaign to reduce benefit fraud which is estimated to cost the country at least £5.5 billion a year. The clamour to tackle this scandal is very loud.

Not so the question of tax avoidance and evasion. New figures show £1 in every £10 of corporation tax is spirited away from the taxman. Let us consider all the figures and not just the ones that suit a political point of view.

R TABERNER
Regent Road
Tividale

Blood delay no big deal

I WAS a blood donor for many years whilst working full time.

I don't ever remember being attended to at my appointment time but surely it is no big deal to give a little time as well as a unit of blood to save a person who might be in extremis. It's only twice a year when all is said and done.

CYNTHIA CROW
Woodman Close
Halesowen

What is the point of the appointment system as far as the donors are concerned? I appreciate it gives some idea of the number of people likely to turn up for a session but seems to have no relation whatsoever to the time the donor is in and out. Not good enough. Some of us have jobs to go to, children to collect, etc. An appointment should be reasonably accurate.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, why do the nurses insist on chatting to each other across the donor as if they were not there? This seems to be a fairly recent thing, maybe because they

do not have time to have an actual conversation with the donors any more? I have seen this so many times and have heard complaints from other donors. One lady told me that she had complained about the rudeness of this but was looked at as if she was barmy.

I have been addressed as 'Sir' on several occasions even though I am - trust me! - quite obviously female, simply because the nurse hasn't even looked at me as she was too busy gossiping with any other nurse.

PAM ARROWSMITH
Stourbridge

Closing clinic is a mistake

The closure of the walk-in clinic at Holly Hall is a big mistake. It would put extra work on the A&E department at Russells Hall which cannot cope now, also most GPs surgeries.

The service at the walk-in clinic is brilliant; no A&E or GP surgeries are going to compete with this service.

I think someone at Dudley Council or the people involved with this closure, need to live in the real world and see the great service this clinic gives patients.

V CARTWRIGHT
Molyneux Road
Dudley

Is help to buy home a ploy?

IS the latest scheme by our Government to get us on the housing ladder just a ploy so that in old age they can take our property from us to pay for care costs?

If you rent you will not have this asset to be clawed back.

C GWILLIAMS
Salcombe Drive
Brierley Hill

LETTERS to the Editor

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Lenny's honour is long overdue

I WELCOME the award of the freedom of Dudley Borough to Lenny Henry.

This honour is well deserved - and long overdue. I remember the Liberal Democrats proposing years ago on Dudley Council that Lenny Henry should be given this honour, and I remember how the suggestion was greeted with derision by the other two parties. Well, this is yet another Liberal Democrat idea whose time has now come.

Rather like old age pensions, introduced by the Liberal Government in 1909; and the National Health Service, a Liberal idea implemented by the Labour government in 1948. And, more recently, the pupil premium to advance the education of underprivileged children; and taking the first £10,000 out of income tax to help working families; and the triple lock on pensions to protect retired people on the state pension.

Three Liberal Democrat ideas now being implemented by the Coalition government. - I'm proud to be a Liberal Democrat.

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MEMORY LANE



May 1963: The annual reunion of the 5th and 7th battalions of the South Staffordshire Regiment at Walsall Drill Hall. Three chums from the 5th, from left, Bert Sanders, John Woodcock and Frank Barker, share a few memories



Men of the 2/6th South Staffordshire Regiment in 1915 before setting off to reinforce the 1st battalion. Archie Griffiths of Wombourne is seated, first left, front row

South Staffs led heroic struggle for the Somme

by Carl Chinn

FOR SO many of us, our thoughts of the First World War are dominated by water-sodden and dirty trenches, heroic yet unsuccessful attacks across the mud of no man's land, and bloody losses of life in futile battles ordered by incompetent and insensitive generals.

In particular, the terrible first day of the Somme looms large in our national and collective consciousness about the horrors of the Great War.

Among those who went 'over the top' on July 1, 1916 were the men of the 1st Battalion the South Staffordshire Regiment. Territorials, they were part of the 137th Staffordshire Brigade, which included two battalions each from North and South Staffordshire. It belonged to the 46th (North Midland) Division, one of the 14 peace-time divisions of the Territorial Force.

The 5th South Staffordshire Regiment had its headquarters and four companies at Walsall, with other companies at Bloxwich, Hednesford, Handsworth and Wednesbury.

As for the 6th battalion, it was based in Wolverhampton, where it had three companies, with others in Willenhall, Sedgley, Darlaston, Bilston and Tettenhall. Like all Territorial soldiers, the men of the 46th North Midland Division were mobilised when war was declared on August 4, 1914.

Its 18,000 infantrymen, gunners, engineers, and medics then trained strenuously until early March 1915 when they were shipped to France – thus becoming the first complete Territorial Division to take the field. By now, the two Staffordshire battalions had become the 1/5th and 1/6th and on the first day of the Somme, they joined the 56th (London Division) to attack Gommecourt, an enemy salient that bulged out from the German lines into no man's land. This assault was a diversion to draw German troops away from Serre to the south.

The two divisions attacked to the north and



October 14, 1965: Comrades from 1/5th South Staffordshire Regiment mark the 50th anniversary of the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. They met at Wolverhampton's Bradmore Hotel

south of the heavily fortified village and aimed to link up behind it – thus cutting off the Germans. The plan failed. After the Great War, a committee of the officers of the 1/6th wrote up the battalion's war history.

At the time, even the commanding officer, Lieutenant J H Thursfield, was unaware of the reasons for the attack. At 6.25am an intense British bombardment began, but "the enemy replied vigorously, both with his field guns and howitzers, and revealed the true strength of his artillery."

Guns

One of these machine guns was in the north-west corner of Gommecourt Village and could not be silenced and it "must have been responsible for a large number of the casualties in the advance".

Shortly before 7.30 the attack was launched, but "the enemy's fire was intense, and from the very start casualties were heavy. The smokescreen, after settling down, drifted parallel with the front instead of towards the enemy, with the result that when halfway across no man's land the assaulting waves came within full view of the enemy. On reaching the wire, men looked in vain for the openings they had expected. It had been cut by our artillery, but no guns could remove it, and it remained in such masses as effectually to prevent a passage".

However, one gap had been made and some of D Company "managed to gain a footing in the enemy's front line, but were soon outnumbered and fell". The bombers under Lieutenant Flaxman also made for the gap but the wire "prevented them from getting to grips, and they were shot down in the open".

On the right flank C Company engaged the enemy "but they could make no headway and suffered heavily. For the rest, those men who passed through the barrages and escaped the machine gun fire could make no progress past the enemy's wire." As for A and B Companies, they found no gaps.

Casualties were severe. Out of the total of 239 in the battalion, most occurred within a few minutes of the beginning of the attack. As for the 1/5th South Staffs, that battalion had also suffered high casualties, with 219 men killed or wounded.

The Battle of the Somme was not the first action that 1/5th and 1/6th had been involved in. Along with the rest of the 46th North Midland Division they had taken part in the Battle of Loos, when on October 15, 1915 they had attacked the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

This was a most forbidding fortification that was linked to the German lines behind it by two well-protected trenches called Little Willie and Big Willie. The 1/5th and 1/6th South Staffordshire Regiment were enjoined to capture Big Willie and then move on to take a defensive site called Fosse 8, a mine at the base of a slagheap.

According to James P Jones in his History of the South Staffordshire Regiment (1923), as soon as the South Staffs attacked they "came under a deadly cross-fire from three sides. With a rush they captured the main trench, but owing to heavy machine gun fire swift progress was impossible."

Resolutely the South Staffs battled along Big Willie and "far into the night this soldiers' battle continued, for it had become an affair of individual gallantry and endurance. Here, for three days, they fought and endured like the heroes of old, until they were relieved by the 2nd Guards Brigade". Casualties were heavy. The 1/5 and 1/6th had lost 31 officers while 695 other ranks had been killed, wounded or were missing.



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NEWS

Road closed as a 1940s bomb is found by roofer



The mortar found in the roof of a Stourbridge house



The bomb disposal unit van arrives in Clark Street

A RELIC from the Second World War sparked a bomb scare after it was found by a workman in the rafters at a house in Stourbridge.

Neighbours were warned to stay indoors as the mortar discovered above the bathroom by roofing contractors was checked out at the back of the house.

The road was closed off for about two hours at lunchtime on October 5 and West Midlands Police sent out their helicopter to monitor the scene in Clark Street, Stourbridge.

Contractors re-roofing Jennifer

Eglinton's bathroom and kitchen extension found the device in the eaves, just above the guttering, after removing tiles. But, after it was checked by bomb disposal experts, it was found not to contain any explosive, said Pete Edney, West Midlands Police spokesman.

"I was told sniffer dogs were coming round - which posed the problem about how do you get dogs on to a roof?," said Mrs Eglinton, aged 64, retired head of drama at Kidderminster College.

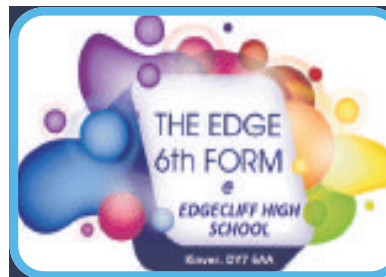
"The police went to neighbours within a 15-minute radius and told them to go to the front of their houses and stay out of their gardens. After the bomb squad arrived and went down

the entry, they came back a few minutes later to say the mortar was not viable.

"I knew it was some sort of incendiary device and my brother has told me it was a 2-inch British mortar, which would sometimes be used by the Home Guard to light up the sky to illuminate bombers in the Second World War. Dummy ones were also used for practice, so it could have been one of those."

Mrs Eglinton's terraced home, where she has lived for 20 years, was originally a police house built in 1911.

And she believes that, at some time during the war, the mortar crashed through the tiles and rolled down between the rafters.



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Arnhem return brings back PoW memories

IT WAS a bridge too far in the Second World War and the Battle of Arnhem saw young parachutist John Baker taken prisoner of war.

Now – as he celebrates his 90th birthday – he has recounted how he and 12 comrades were forced to give themselves up to the Germans as houses literally blew up around them during their trek to reinforce troops battling to take the nearby bridge.

by Louise Jew

He celebrated his 21st birthday in Stalag 12A, in transit to his eventual home for more than seven months, Stalag 11B near Hanover, where he was forced to put in long days of hard labour on near-starvation rations.

Once at Stalag 11B, Gornal-born John heard a distinctive dialect through the barbed wire in another section of the camp – and called out 'how you going, Joe Marsh?' He and Joe had grown up together in Gornal and the two men shared Joe's last two Woodbine cigarettes.

Wreath

John, now of Sedgley, has just returned from a moving pilgrimage back to Arnhem. He laid a wreath to mark the 69th anniversary of the battle. Though year by year fewer and fewer of the brave veterans who survived Arnhem remain, he fully intends to be there for the 'big one', the 70th anniversary.

John, a great-grandfather, who has lived in Etymore Road West since 1949, was just 17 when he lied to join the Army in 1940, saying he was 18. He joined the Welsh Fusiliers but later a call came round for volunteers for the airborne forces.

He was tempted by the prospect of an extra two shillings a day – at the time he was earning only 14 shillings a week, so it would double his wage – and a red beret that all the girls fell for.

So off he went, in 1942, to join the 1st airborne division and saw active service in the North Africa campaign, followed by Sicily and Italy.

"North Africa was a long campaign – the paras were supposed to be in and out but we were used as infantry," said John.

In late September 1944, John and the rest of his division in the British Airborne forces landed outside the Dutch town for Operation Market Garden. A number of other bridges had been taken but Arnhem proved the bridge too far, as immortalised in the blockbuster film of the same name.

Soon the forces were surrounded and almost 2,000

were killed, with many more injured and taken prisoner. John said: "We landed about eight miles from the bridge and were among 10,000. We got within a quarter of a mile before we hit the heavy stuff. Two Panzer divisions were refitting just outside Arnhem, which threw us. They'd got heavy tanks and flamethrowers, against our rifles and machine guns.

"They were literally blowing houses down around us. Our officer decided the only way out was to surrender, somewhere near the Elizabeth Hospital in West Arnhem."

John and his comrades spent five days being transported, 40 to a cattle truck, on the railway into Germany to their prison camps. There he was set to hard labour clearing up bomb damage and helping to lay railway lines.

They were surviving on one loaf of German black bread between seven men each day, with a pint of 'skilly' – a watery soup. Very rarely they would have some potatoes or sauerkraut and about once a month Red Cross parcels would arrive with concentrated soup and chocolate.

"Remarkably I only lost a few pounds and we were eventually relieved by a spearhead of the American 5th army, which caught up with us as the Germans marched us away from the camp," said John.

He returned to Bulford camp, near Salisbury, where he met his wife Rosalind. The couple, who had three daughters, celebrated 65 years of marriage. Rosalind died last year, aged 89.

John became a grinding machine operator at Contractor Switchgear in Wolverhampton, later working at Tipton and then as a member of security staff at John Thompson's boiler makers in Ettingshall.

John, who celebrated his 90th birthday with a family party at The Lodge in Wellington Road, Dudley, said: "I was young compared to most – a boy amongst men."



Arnhem veteran John, from Sedgley, now aged 90, shows his medals and beret



John joined up in 1940 when he was 17



John (second from the left) Italy 1943

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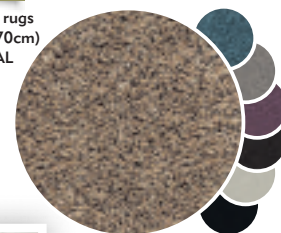
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No evictions despite growing rent arrears since 'bedroom tax'

COUNCILS across the Black Country have yet to evict anyone for failing to pay the 'bedroom tax', despite thousands of people falling into debt with their rent.

But 11 people have so far been taken to court as a result of unpaid rent. The policy was enacted in April and removed 14 or 25 per cent of housing benefit from council or social housing tenants with one or more spare rooms.

It was intended to free up larger homes for families and reduce enormous council house waiting lists.

Shortage

But a shortage of smaller properties has left many people with no choice but to pay higher rents, with thousands falling behind as a result.

Dudley Council has 35 tenants in arrears specifically because of the 'bedroom tax' but has not taken anyone to court. Dudley councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "We deal with all rent arrears in the same way and look to offer support to tenants to ensure they can manage payments."

Sandwell Council has prosecuted nine out of 2,781 tenants in arrears and who found themselves paying more because of the removal of what Government calls the 'spare room subsidy'. It is owed £656,491 in unpaid rent.

Wolverhampton Homes, which manages the city's houses, is owed £55,500 as a result of the 'bedroom tax' and has taken two people to court with three cases pending. But it has not yet evicted a single tenant as a result.

Mark Henderson, director of housing at Wolverhampton Homes said: "The stark reality is, if people don't pay their rent and don't talk to us to find out how we can help them; then they could end up losing their home."

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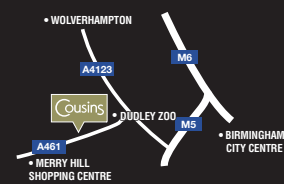
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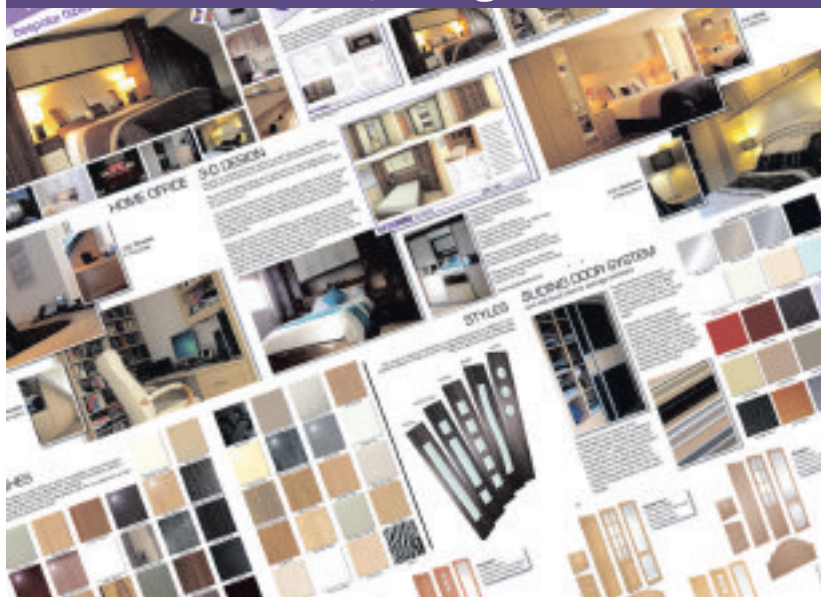
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NEWS

Councillors support £5m revamp at college campus



An artist's impression showing the design for the campus entrance which has now won support from councillors

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for a new entrance to a college campus in Stourbridge have won support from councillors.

Dudley Council's development control committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed revamp of the entrance to the Hagley Road Campus of Birmingham Metropolitan College, formerly Stourbridge College.

The £5 million plan also includes building two new three-storey teaching blocks, with one providing a new home for the college's health and social care department.

Following approval by council members last week, college estates director John Starmer said he hoped

work on the proposal would begin by March, with targeted opening in October next year.

During the meeting at Dudley Council House, councillors were told by officers that the college needed to update its campus to compete in the education sector and safeguard its position in Stourbridge.

Excited

Committee chairman, Councillor Qadar Zada, said: "As a former pupil of Stourbridge College and walking through that entrance, I certainly would have felt much more excited about going into college, all be it that this shouldn't be the only reason people enter college."

He added: "It is fair to say that

Stourbridge College had some catching up to do with the facilities in the borough and beyond.

"Following the work at Dudley College, I am extremely excited that Stourbridge College will provide a facility which is fit for purpose."

Councillor Tim Wright said: "I think it is very exciting for Stourbridge and good for the borough that students can still be educated when staying in the borough."

Under the approved proposal, the health and social care department at the rear of the site will be demolished.

The work is part of a wider £20m transformation for the college over the next 10 years. College bosses recently launched a new golf academy with Hagley Golf and Country Club.

star★extra TRAVEL

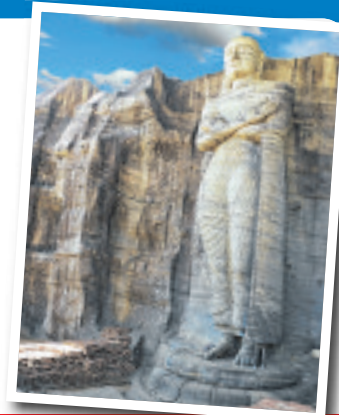
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One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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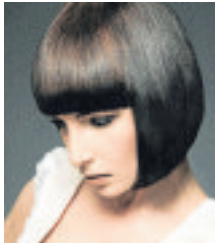
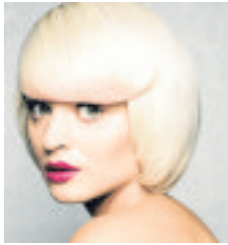


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Bonce Salons are an innovative group with the décor of each reflecting their creative values and buzzing atmosphere. The team of expert stylists strive to adapt fashionable catwalk looks, suit the needs and features of the everyday client, via their array of services

including colour, cutting, styling and Brazilian blow-dry.

To date, Bonce Salons have competed and been finalists in a large number of competitions and awards including the prestigious Men's Hairdresser of the Year and Website/Innovation of the Year in this year's 2013 British Hairdressing and Business Awards, as well as being 2012 Marketing of the Year salon winners.

Charity

Bonce's regular involvement with local charities has evolved their status from mere creative salon to a business, determined to give back to the local community. Their recent collaboration with Midlands Air Ambulance has already raised awareness and money for the charity.

The two salons in Wednesbury are at: 19-21 Darlston road, WS10 7HX
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Simply answer this:

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CLUB NEWS

A mystery tour of the Midlands

BLACKHEATH MORNING TWG

THE meeting on September 25 was opened by Chairman Doreen Armstrong who welcomed all members and visitors together with speaker for the day Ian Bott.

Monthly reports were given by Treasurer Beryl Hartley, Outings Co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmere and Press Officer Iris Harris.

On September 11, a group of members visited Harvington Hall and a local garden centre for lunch. The ladies had an excellent day but the weather was not kind.

At the end of business, Doreen introduced Mr Bott whose talk was a Midlands Mystery Tour. This consisted of 100 slides showing a group of Black Country folk enjoying a charabanc tour in the 1960s.

The destinations included Lichfield, The Cotswolds and Severn Valley with stops at such places like Shugborough Hall, The National Tramway Museum and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

The charabanc's return to the Black Country was highlighted by Ian showing a glorious sunset over Wolverhampton painted by war-time artist, Bradbury.

Beryl Hartley gave the vote of thanks and members gave a round of applause. The next meeting is on October 23 at 10.30am at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath.

This will be a birthday meeting and speaker will be Mr Alan Peace whose subject will be "Never work with children or animals".

Group highlights right for education



Scarecrow co-ordinators Pat Hogan and Renee White and her Sorooptimister Bill

OVER the weekend of September 27-29, members of SI Wolverhampton took part in the Scarecrow Festival in Fittingham.

The theme was to educate the girl, educate the family; to raise awareness that Sorooptimists worldwide support the right of all children to receive an education.

The members of SI Wolverhampton are currently involved in supporting FOOT-PRINTS Orphanage in Africa, where all children have the opportunity to learn, by supplying educational materials. Coupled

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

with this project the club decided that 'Water Aid' collections should go towards the survey being undertaken, to find a source of sustainable clean water for the orphanage and the local village, in this very barren area. This all helps to enable the children to be educated in a safe and healthier environment.

Nailed on for history talk

THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY KINGSWINFORD BRANCH

AT the first meeting of the season on September 18, Mark Clifford, project officer from Avoncroft Museums, spoke about the development of a nailer's cottage, 1860-2013.

Nail making was an important cottage industry in the Birmingham area from the early 17th century. Families were poorly paid by the suppliers for the amount

of work done and often in tokens to be used in shops and pubs run by the owners.

Workers from time to time went on strike for better wages. As mechanisation took over so the cottage industries declined and most of the buildings were

demolished. A couple of listed buildings remained on Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove, and were due for demolition but kept in tact.

It was decided to remove the cottage to Avoncroft Museums and demolition took place in July 2012.

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NEWS

Major show will be used to attract new investment

MP opposes court move



Dudley Magistrates' Court – criminal cases being moved out of the borough

A DUDLEY MP has launched a bid for a parliamentary debate on proposals to close the town's criminal court as part of a shake-up of the justice system.

Dudley Magistrates' Court will close to criminal cases under a radical overhaul of the court system proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

The move would result in Dudley becoming a civil, family and tribunal centre. Criminal cases would be transferred to Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is opposed to the move and has launched a petition against it.

Addressing the minister during a question session on the criminal justice system in the House of Commons, Mr

Austin said: "The best way to modernise the criminal justice system would be to not close Dudley's magistrates court, currently threatened with closure by the minister's department, which will force victims and witnesses to travel to Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton at great expense in terms of money and time."

Mr Green defended the proposal, saying: "The introduction of video links means that people will not need to travel the distances that the honary gentleman (Mr Austin) talks about. That is the way to have an efficient estate in future, while also giving proper protection to vulnerable witnesses."

A MAJOR engineering exhibition next month will be used to help attract new investment to the Black Country.

Invest Black Country, which was set up by the area's Local Enterprise Partnership a year ago, will be exhibiting alongside Jaguar Land Rover and aerospace group Moog at the Advanced Engineering UK event at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre on November 12 and 13.

JLR, which is building a £500 million engine plant at Wolverhampton that will create 1,400 jobs, will be showing off two of its latest models and Moog, which has a factory in Wolverhampton, will also have a stand.

Manager

Brierley Hill-based Invest Black Country is already working closely with JLR to improve its supply chain and source more components from within the Black Country.

Alan Edwards, senior supply chain manager for JLR will be speaking about its 'just in time - just in sequence' strategy for components.

Invest Black Country head of investment Wayne Langford said it would also be featuring six local companies on its stand at the exhibition and explaining the work of the LEP in supporting business and offering advice on access to finance.

"We will be promoting the Black Country and highlighting the world-class companies that are here," he said.

Main contractors for JLR, Beck & Pollitzer Engineering, will deal with enquiries about supplying the JLR engine plant.

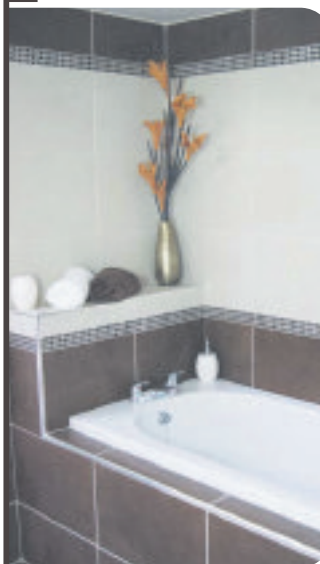
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NEWS

Family ties at Banks's broken after 125 years

BREWING and pubs giant Marston's is now, for the first time in its 120-year history, facing the future without a member of its founding family at the helm.

Former chairman David Thompson officially left the company founded by his great-great grandfather.

Mr Thompson was the fifth generation of his family to run the former Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and oversaw its dramatic rise to become one of the leading brewing and pub-owning groups in the UK, employing 12,000 people at its six breweries and 2,100 pubs.

When Mr Thompson, now aged 59, took over from his father as managing director in 1986 the company had just the Park Brewery at Wolverhampton, where it still brews Banks's today, and around 750 pubs. But it hasn't all been plain sailing. In 2000 the company was caught up in a bitter battle to fend off a hostile takeover bid from the Pubmas-ter group.

Successful

As the dust settled, a boardroom reshuffle saw David Thompson elevated to the role of chairman while finance director Ralph Findlay became chief executive. They have forged a highly successful team as the company has gone from strength to strength, renaming the company Marston's in 2006 after its biggest selling ale.

Their success in tough economic times is underlined by the continuing strength of the group's financial figures – in the six months of March this year profits were around £28 million while sales were up to £358m.

The company has paid its own tribute to its departing chairman. A statement said: "David's contribution to the company and the industry has



Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries former boss David Thompson

been immense, and his intellect and capacity for hard work have been invaluable."

And Ralph Findlay, his close colleague for the last 17 years, added: "I would also like to thank David Thompson for his immense contribution to Marston's over 35 years including leading its expansion into a truly national pub operator and brewer."

While Marston's has been a central feature of David Thompson's life, it is just one of a string of businesses he has been involved with. Over the years he has held more than 80 directorships and will be continuing with roles on the board of housebuilder Persimmon, Caledonia Investments and Smiths

Flour Mills as well as his job as chief executive of Anglia Maltings – which supplies more than 250,000 tons of malted cereals a year to the world's top brewers, distillers and food producers.

Away from work David Thompson and his wife Marika have raised their children at the family farm at Bovingale.

Mr Thompson is an Old Wykehamist – he attended the historic Winchester College public school in Hampshire from 1967 to 1971 – and has opened his home to a visiting party of fellow old-boys on occasion.

He is also president of the Dudley Book Society, the UK's oldest book club dating back to 1732.

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In the past few years Vietnam has opened its doors to the world and much has changed. Today, in one of the world's last communist countries, the motorcycles and western dress of the youth happily co-exist with orange-clad Buddhist monks and political posters from a different era.

On this 16-day tour you will visit Hue, one of the country's most beautiful small towns and the former imperial capital. Here you will be able to see the amazing Citadel and its imperial Forbidden City, as well as the magnificent seven-storied Thien Mu pagoda, a working Buddhist shrine.

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The overwhelming image of Vietnam is that of a country blessed with extraordinary beauty and the friendly Vietnamese always courteous and proud to show of their wonderful country.

In Cambodia you can experience the haunting soft morning light rise over the eerie temples of Angkor. Then later discover the huge fortified 13th century city of Angkor Thom, with its five monumental gates, and 300ft wide moat – its centre containing one of Angkor's most remarkable sites, the temple of Bayon.



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Councillor Khurshid Ahmed with, back, school crossing patrol officers Paul Mullings, Michael Cook and co-ordinator Coral Holloway

Lollipop sticks record motorists

LOLLIPOP men and ladies providing a safe crossing to school for youngsters have long suffered the wrath of impatient motorists.

But now the workers at Dudley Council have a weapon in their armoury which appears to be quelling the problem and improving road safety.

Cameras positioned inside the signal poles are designed as a deterrent against road rage outbursts, and they also record footage of drivers failing to stop at the crossings.

Figures revealed this week show the number of reported dangerous driving incidents has dropped from eight last year, to only four so far this year.

Coral Holloway, the council's school crossing co-ordinator and lollipop lady for 14 years, said: "We're now seeing a more careful approach from drivers - the message appears to be getting out there."

"Motorists are spotting the signs warning of the cameras and are abiding by the rules."

The cameras are in two of the council's lollipop sticks, and are shifted around the borough to problem areas.

They begin recording when lifted vertically and take footage from the front and back of the sign.

Identify

The film can then be used to identify the motorist, who can be sent a warning letter from the council.

There are currently 88 regular lollipop lady and men, with nine back-up staff.

Councillor Khursid Ahmed, the council's cabinet member for transport, said: "There have been a few incidents in the past which have led us to install the cameras, but the good news is they appear to be working."

"This, alongside the introduction of 20mph speed limits outside some schools, is improving the safety of children, which is key to us."



The tiny video camera

Bishop David says goodbye

PEOPLE from Worcestershire and Dudley gathered in Worcester Cathedral on Sunday to say good bye to the Bishop of Dudley, leaving the diocese to become the 12th Bishop of Manchester.

The Rt Revd David Walker has been Bishop of Dudley since 2000 and his farewell service took the form of evensong at the cathedral after which the Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, presented him with a number of gifts from the diocese, including a bespoke cope and mitre for his new role.

Bishop David, aged 56, said: "Whilst I am excited about returning to my home city as Bishop, my wife Sue and I will also be sad to leave so many friends that we have made in the Diocese of Worcester."

His formal enthronement will take place in Manchester Cathedral on November 30.

Cycling veteran Ethel celebrates her 100th



Patricia Treagust, Jean Hinett, Heather Finch and Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch with Ethel Taylor celebrating her 100th birthday

ONE of a well-known Black Country cycling club's earliest members has celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends.

Ethel Taylor was joined by her nieces Patricia Treagust and Jean Hinett to mark the special occasion - and even received a visit from Dudley Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch.

Other visitors on the day included past and present members of Oldbury and District Cycling Club.

Mrs Taylor, formerly of Hagley but who now lives at the Holly Lodge Care Home, Oldswinford, was one of the club's very first members, joining in the 1930s.

Meetings

Over the years she served as both treasurer and committee member. Meetings were even held at her home.

Mrs Taylor's husband Frank, who died in 1999, was also a member of the club and competed in the Oldbury 13-hour time trial for 19 years.

The trial had around 100 members in its heyday and some riders went on to become national time trial champions.

Both Mrs Taylor and her husband were made life members of the club in the 1960s.

They attended the club regularly and when no longer cycling still enjoyed walking and camping holidays, often in the mountains of Scotland and Wales.

Mrs Hinett said her aunt was also a skilled dressmaker and enjoyed cooking. Mrs Taylor moved to

Holly Lodge from her home in Meadow Croft, Hagley, earlier this year after breaking her hip.

Mrs Hinett said: "Up until then my aunt had very little in the way of medical treatment. She has always been extremely fit."

"The home put on a great party to celebrate my aunt's 100th birthday and it was wonderful people from the club came to share the occasion with her."

"It was also great for the mayor to visit."

Mrs Hinett added: "She was one of the club's first members. At the time it was very rare for a woman to be involved in such a sport so she was revolutionary in many ways. Her commitment to the club over the years was extraordinary."

Mrs Hinett said her aunt had got her involved in cycling at the age of 15.

Mrs Taylor was born Ethel Treagust, the youngest of five children and lived in Edgbaston Road, Birmingham, and became interested in cycling as a young woman.

She married Frank in 1945 after he returned from service with the Army.

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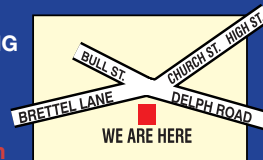


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NEWS FEATURE

Eliza linked to industrial past as a notable figure

A SEDGLEY chainmaking magnate and bare-knuckle boxing legend the Tipton Slasher are among the latest additions to a prestigious guide to the people who shaped Britain.

More than 70 notable historic figures connected with the West Midlands are featured in the latest update to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, which can be viewed over the internet.

The latest additions include Eliza Tinsley, a Sedgley widow who owned one of the largest nail and chain making businesses in the West Midlands, and inventor Thomas Parker, whose Wolverhampton business pioneered electricity as a form of domestic power, and also invented Coalite smokeless fuel.

Juvenile

Jack Judge, the Oldbury comedian who wrote the popular wartime ditty It's A Long Way to Tipperary, is also featured in the new guide, along with Tipton Slasher William Perry, who was the boxing champion of England from 1850 to 1857.

Another famous name from the region was Dame Geraldine Cadbury, who was born in 1865.

After marrying into famous chocolate-making dynasty, reconciled increasing wealth with a commitment to social reform, becoming a volunteer probation officer and a nationally-recognised expert on juvenile justice policy.

But one of the most remarkable stories was that of Birmingham button manufacturer Skirrow Wright, 1822-1880, who became one of the leading figures in local government during the second half of the 19th century. He died suddenly while attending a committee meeting in the newly-opened council house.



Chainmaker Eliza Tinsley, added to the guide



Tipton Slasher, William Perry

A statue of him was placed in front of the municipal buildings.

West Bromwich draper John Blackham, who founded the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon movement which organised church-related activities for men on Sunday afternoons, also gets a listing.

Editor Philip Carter said one of the principal objectives of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography was to document the lives of major figures from Britain's industrial past.

"The Black Country - now recognised as the world's first industrial landscape - is a particular focus of the latest dictionary update," he said.

"This was the area that supplied the

world with hardware - from everyday household objects to the anchor chain of the Titanic - and the dictionary gives examples of some of the most remarkable lives."

Birmingham University professor and Express & Star columnist Carl Chinn is among the contributors to the latest update, having written the entries for Birmingham Labour MP Percy Shurner and author Kate Dayus, best known for her childhood memories of Edwardian Birmingham.

The latest updates to the 60-volume publication can now be viewed free of charge on the internet to anybody with library membership.

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NEWS

Brian bowled over by his maiden Pam



Happily married – Brian and Pam Priest, from Wombourne, celebrate their golden wedding anniversary

A COUPLE who met at the wedding of their lifelong friends have celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Brian Priest and his self-confessed 'cricket widow' wife Pam married at St John's Church in Halesowen in 1963.

Just two years earlier their paths first crossed at the wedding of John and Ann Smith – and in Mr Priest's words they were clearly meant to be.

He and Mr Smith were childhood school pals, while Mrs Priest and Mrs Smith began working together after leaving school.

Mr Priest, aged 75, said: "We met at the wedding and it soon progressed from there when we

courted. I guess it was always meant to be."

Keen cricket fan Mr Priest played the sport in his younger days and is now a regular watcher at New Road, Edgbaston and Lord's.

But it has meant that Mrs Priest has been left to her own devices over the years.

"She's definitely a cricket widow," he said. "It's a very prominent part of my life which she doesn't interfere with."

The pair have two sons – 47-year-old Calvin and Stuart, 44, as well as three granddaughters.

The couple are both from the Dudley area and moved to Ounsdale Crescent in Wombourne last year.



The happy couple seen in 1963



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ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEWS

Carousel at the Grand was big break for Sian

by Alison Norton

WHEN Sian Reeves joined South Staffs Musical Theatre Company back in 1983 for their production of *Carousel*, little did she know it would lead to a highly successful theatrical and TV career spanning three decades.

Best known for her roles as Sydney in the hairdressing drama, *Cutting It*, as the evil Sally Spode in *Emmerdale* and currently starring as the crazy, nousey neighbour, Bianca in Sky TV's comedy, *Mount Pleasant*, Sian has certainly made a name for herself on the small screen. However, it all started in Wolverhampton at the city's Grand Theatre.

Born in West Bromwich and raised in Brewwood, Sian, a former pupil at Wolgarston High School in Penkridge, joined The Lytton School of Dance aged just two, not wanting to be left out when her sister Dawn began to tread the boards.

Tears

"My earliest memory of theatre is being late for my cue in a dance called *My Old Man* said Follow the Van, where I was dressed as a Cockney lady with a bird cage," she said. "I was in floods of tears and my mum carried me off."

Years of tutus and tap shoes followed until Sian won the role of Louise, the daughter of the leading couple in *Carousel*.

"I had this amazing dance routine which was seven minutes long, including a pas de deux with a kiss," she said.

"I remember leaping and running across the stage and then the acting part of the role which is very emotional. I loved every minute of it and couldn't wait to get on stage for every



Big break – Sian Reeves, who started out in am dram in Wolverhampton



Comedy roles – Sian Reeves as Bianca in *Mount Pleasant*



Success – the current *Carousel* production at the Grand Theatre

performance," she said.

Thirty years on, South Staffs Musical Theatre Company have again just performed *Carousel* at The Grand.

The five-night run, from October 8-12 featured 14-year-old Lizzy Bowers, a contemporary dancer from Walsall as Louise.

It is interesting to see how the dance styles have evolved over the years. Sian's version was much more balletic whereas Lizzy's interpretation has a modern, edgy approach.

So how does professional theatre differ from am dram? In Sian's eyes, the desire and passion to perform are exactly the same and the talent is on a par.

"In fact there is much more joy in am

dram as you work so hard all year long for just one week in a theatre," she added.

"Everyone is doing a day job too and so it becomes a mixture of pleasure, fatigue and silliness which is just wonderful." TV work is very different to theatre but which does Sian prefer?

"I honestly don't mind as long as I am working," she said. "I enjoy both. 'Lots of 30 somethings recognise me from *Cutting It* which they watched as teenagers and as Bianca now and it is really sweet when people ask for photos or autographs," said Sian.

Sian is currently appearing in *It's A Family Affair* at Sherman Cymru, with a fourth series of *Mount Pleasant* also in the offing.

Bruno's a knockout – and packed crowd is in heaven

Bruno Mars, Birmingham NIA

A RAINY night in Birmingham, gridlocked roads and all car parks full. It was not the most promising start to a weekend but within five minutes of Bruno Mars hitting the stage at the NIA all the hassle was forgotten.

This guy is good. The Hawaiian cat in the white Fedora hat exudes soulful exuberance, combined with his all-action backing band and their synchronised dance moves.

With just two albums Mars has established himself at the top of the music game. The 5ft 5in dinky dynamo busts some James Brown moves, shows his prowess on guitar and drums, but sings with real conviction.

Best received was *When I Was Your Man*, from which he wringed every drop of emotion. His encore for the capacity crowd was *Locked Out Of Heaven* and *Gorilla* in a literally explosive finale.

Leon Burakowski

Enchanting songstress with a gorgeous voice

Cara Dillon, Town Hall, Birmingham

IF Cara Dillon were a siren then the wariest of old seadogs would be lured by her enchanting voice. Appropriately she opened with a sea shanty-style song about true love.

Northern Irish songstress Dillon's gorgeous tones then lent themselves to *Rise Up My Darling*, a traditional song she sang in Irish. The band admitted they were 'winging it' somewhat as they had a little time to get everyone together and rehearse and many songs were from forthcoming album *A Thousand Hearts*.

Dillon really got to show off her gorgeous voice with ballads *Donald and Garden Valley*, for which she was accompanied by Sam Lakeman on grand piano.

For the encore she treated her fans to another traditional Irish tune *Johnny, Lovely Johnny* ending with a lovely haunting version of the *Parting Glass*. **Danny Farragher**

Shaw-fire hit from superb, passionate cast

12 Angry Men, Birmingham Rep

WHEN you re-enact a film as iconic and acclaimed as *12 Angry Men* you had better get it right, fortunately the terrifically passionate cast led by Martin Shaw did and superbly so.

Shaw, who takes the part of the quietly spoken architect, Juror No8, played by Henry Fonda in the 1957 film adaptation, is supported by a cast which includes Hollywood Walk of Famer Robert Vaughn and British film star Nick Moran.

The drama focuses on the tensions of a jury deciding the fate of a juvenile delinquent accused of murdering his father and facing the electric chair in 1950s America. When the vote is taken one man, Juror No8, stands alone and dares to express his doubts, much to the chagrin of the others who see it as a cut and dried case.

Shaw's character tries to express his doubts amid the clamour of bigotry and angst which surfaces from the variety of characters, none more so than Miles Richardson as Juror No.10 who is fantastic as the furious and sickeningly bigoted blue collar "Joe" who takes every opportunity to spit his venom and bile to all around him.

Also, Juror No.11, played by Lee J Cobb in the film, and this time played with heart-rending passion by Martin Turner as the bitter and twisted self-



Cast members Martin Shaw, Robert Vaughn, Owen O'Neill, Miles Richardson, Luke Shaw, David Calvito, Martin Turner, Jeff Fahey, Paul Antony-Barber, Nick Moran, Robert Blythe and Edward Franklin in *12 Angry Men*

appointed executioner who wants to vent all the rage from the disappointment of his own son on to the accused.

The tension builds as one by one Shaw voices his "reasonable doubts" and gradually makes the other jurors face their own faults and demons. There are incredibly poignant moments which for such a serious subject matter oddly elicited a great many laughs from the audience.

A slight hiccup was the dramatic moment with the flick knife – a crucial point – which Shaw fluffed slightly and lost its impact somewhat. But overall an incredible performance from the entire cast. It runs until October 19.

Danny Farragher

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What's On! Stourbridge

REVIEW

Kim Lowings and The Greenwood Newhampton Folk Club, Wolverhampton

ONE of the first things you notice about Black Country lass Kim Lowings is that behind the crystal clear tone and glass smoothness of her voice there is a lot more power waiting to be unleashed.

She uses her range effortlessly and never struggles on any of the notes as she goes through her set with The Greenwood, which is a musical collective based in Stourbridge.

The concert at the Newhampton Inn, Riches Street, Wolverhampton was really a set of two halves because, through no fault of their own, the band had to resolve the problem of a missing sound engineer.

Uplifting

And while Tim Rogers, the percussionist with The Greenwood, did his best, what happened was that for the first part the instruments were a little overpowering and the dulcimer, which was centre stage with Kim, came over too strong.

Fortunately Kim has the kind of voice that could take on a jet engine and still hold her own but there is a lightness about both Kim's singing and the band's playing which is uplifting, even the more 'serious' songs still didn't have that 'heavy' feel to them such as Off to Sea which was essentially a war song.

The first offerings were folk, in the second part, the band moved towards the more traditional.

DANNY FARRAGHER

True story of teacher facing prejudice and surly students

Suede stay together for Bloodsports



Suede return with their first album in 11 years, Bloodsports, and a gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on October 31

BRITPOP hipsters Suede bounced back in 2013 with their sixth album Bloodsports, their first since A New Morning 11 years before.

It has marked a return to form that ensures the comeback is more than mere 1990s nostalgia.

Brett Anderson and co will be back in action on a tour this month that

includes a gig at Birmingham O2 Academy on Thursday, October 31.

It's part of a stellar line up at the city centre venue over the next couple of weeks which features former Sex Pistol John Lydon's Public Image Ltd (supported by The Selecter) on Sunday; highly-rated new band London Grammar on Wednesday; Fill

My Little World outfit The Feeling on October 26 in the venue's smaller 2 room, as 1990s favourites Travis play the main hall; and exciting young Nottingham singer-songwriter Jake Bugg hitting the venue like a Lightning Bolt on October 28 and 29, before completing his Birmingham Academy hat-trick on November 10.

MATTHEW Kelly stars opposite Royal Shakespeare Company actor Ansu Kabia in a new stage adaptation of ER Braithwaite's To Sir With Love at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, October 22 to 26.

TV presenter turned respected actor Matthew Kelly plays the enlightened headmaster of a tough school in London's East End in 1948 who takes on a former RAF fighter pilot as a teacher. But some question his judgement because the former Cambridge graduate, played by Ansu Kabia, also happens to be black.

Experiences

This touring production of Braithwaite's play has been adapted by East Is East writer Ayub Khan Din. It is the first in a new programme of work co-produced by Touring Consortium Theatre Company with the highly-rated Royal & Derngate Northampton.

Guyana-born Edward Ricardo Braithwaite had based To Sir With Love on his own experiences. It was made into a major film in 1967 starring Sidney Poitier and featuring the hit title song made famous by Lulu.

This new stage adaptation is peppered with the songs and dances of the late 40s, a time of hope and austerity. If I Were A Rich Man



Ansu Kabia and Matthew Kelly in To Sir With Love musical Fiddler On The Roof, revived by Craig Revel Horwood and starring Paul Michael Glaser, is at the Grand until Saturday.

Theatrical blockbuster War Horse continues at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Maureen Lipman stars in poignant drama Daytona at Birmingham Rep from Monday to Saturday.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company pack all 37 Shakespeare plays into 97 minutes at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday night.

REVIEW

The Upbeat Beatles, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

CLOSE your eyes and you could be there, the packed Cavern Club, the screaming girls, yes you've guessed it - Beatlemania. But this was not back in the 60s but bang up to date and the 'Beatles' were playing instead to a jam-packed Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton with the audience lapping it up.

Bringing the Beatles' amazing journey to life, complete with film screen behind, were The Upbeat Beatles who, for one night only, during their nationwide tour brought the magic of the Fab Four to the city taking us through the story of the sound that changed a generation.

Humour

With their own inimitable style and plenty of humour about the different relationships, marriages etc, they took us through the musical journey.

The concert started with Please, Please Me - which they did - and of course ended on the second encore with Hey Jude and the audience were all back up on their feet swaying.

They all looked the part - although 'John' was a bit on the heavy side - and had perfected the mannerisms.

'Paul' in particular had both the looks and in most of the songs the voice was spot on.

They promised to be back next year. Get your seats booked ready!

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What's On!

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CHOICE



Trevor Eve (right)

Waking the Dead

Drama, 9pm
This modern classic stars Trevor Eve as Detective Superintendent Peter Boyd. He is a troubled and volatile – but brilliant – police officer who's an expert at closing cold cases. Boyd heads up a crack squad of police investigators who reopen unsolved murder cases, using new technology to re-examine evidence that hopefully will lead to the killer. In the first episode, Boyd is approached by Marina Coleman a woman convinced her father's death in a car crash was neither an accident nor suicide, but something far more sinister.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News. **Regional News: Weather, 1.15** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Including an interview with Christine Ohuruogu. **1.45** MotoGP. **2.45** Bargain Hunt. **3.15** Escape to the Country. **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **Regional News: Weather, 5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom battle, as the couples aim to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm. **8.20** **Atlantis.** The trio stumble across an abandoned baby in the mountains, and when they take it back to the city they find themselves embroiled in a web of deadly secrets and lies. **9.05** **The National Lottery Live.** Chris Evans reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball. **9.15** **Casualty.** Rita lets her personal feelings cloud her judgement while spending a day with the paramedics, and Big Mac forms a connection with a destitute patient (Keith Barron). **10.05** **BBC News; Weather.** **10.25** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Newcastle United v Liverpool and Manchester United v Southampton; National Lottery Update. **11.55** **The Football League Show.** **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Animal Park. (R) **7.00** **Film: Carnival Story.** (1954) **8.35** **Film: The Lady Vanishes.** (1938) **9.00** **Real History of Britain.** (R) **10.40** **The Life of Birds.** (R) **11.30** **Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age.** (R) **12.00** **The A to Z of TV Cooking.** **12.45** **Film: Follow the Fleet.** (1936) **2.35** **Film: Shall We Dance?** (1937) **4.20** **Urban Jungle.** **4.50** **The House That E100K Built.** (R) **5.50** **Flog It!** **6.50** **Count Arthur Strong.** (R) **7.20** **Wales: Two Tonne Tusker – Natural World.** Marine mammal reproduction expert Holley Muraco heads to the wilds of northern Alaska to learn more about walrus' behaviour and aid her attempts to breed the species in captivity. (R) **8.20** **Sir David Frost: That Was the Life That Was.** Stephen Fry tells the life story of David Frost, who died in August, featuring contributions by the TV host's three sons and friends including Ronnie Corbett and Michael Caine. **9.20** **Frost on Satire.** David Frost examines the power of political TV satire in the UK and America, featuring contributions from Rory Bremner, Ian Hislop, Tina Fey, Will Ferrell and Chevy Chase. (R) **10.20** **Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme.** Extended edition. With Dr Christian Jessen, John Birtley, Finn Jones and Kristian Nairn. **11.00** **Film: Frost/Nixon.** (2008) Fact-based drama, starring Frank Langella and Michael Sheen. **12.55** **Film: Leaving.** (2009) **2.15** This Is BBC Two. **5.30** Live MotoGP.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** **Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50** **Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00** **Animals.** (R) **7.10** **Animals.** (R) **7.15** **Animals.** (R) **7.25** **Sooty.** **7.35** **Horrid Henry.** (R) **7.50** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **8.15** **Bottom Knockers Street.** **8.30** **Munch Box.** **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Saturday Cookbook.** (R) **10.25** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25** **ITV News: Weather.** **11.30** **Surprise Surprise.** (R) **12.30** **All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **1.15** **Doc Martin.** (R) **2.15** **Catchphrase.** (R) **3.00** **Film: Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace.** (1999) **5.35** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **5.45** **ITV News; Weather.** **6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** **6.30** **Fool Britannia.** A psychic's abilities desert him in a Manchester theatre. **7.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** With Alastair Stewart, Natasha Hamilton, Kim Woodburn and Keith Chegwin. **8.00** **The X Factor.** The aspiring pop stars perform modern love songs in the second live studio round, battling to win praise from the judges and support from viewers at home. Dermot O'Leary hosts. The results are tomorrow at 8pm. **10.05** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With Harry Redknapp, Gordon Ramsay, Frank Lampard, Julie Walters and Dizze Rascal. **11.10** **ITV News; Weather.** **11.25** **Take Me Out.** A pilot, an abseller, an entrepreneur and a surfer take part. (R) **12.20** **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **3.45** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **FIA GT Series.** **7.05** **VW Racing Cup.** **7.30** **River Rat Race Stockton.** **8.00** **The Morning Line.** **9.00** **The American Football Show.** **10.00** **Frasier.** (R) **10.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **11.00** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00** **The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30** **Heston's Chocolate Factory Feast.** (R) **1.30** **Channel 4 Racing.** **4.30** **Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00** **Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.35** **Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.05** **Come Dine with Me.** Self-confessed control freak Mandy Gale hosts the final party on the Isle of Wight, certain her strong flavours and elaborate recipes will be enough to win the £1,000 cash prize. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.** The team tries to track down a mysterious woman who has single-handedly committed numerous high-stakes robberies, but her true identity spells trouble for Coulson. (R) **8.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows a London couple's project to transform an inefficient and uninspiring 1950s house into a sleek, modernist masterpiece. (R) **9.00** **Film: Die Hard.** (1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have taken over a Los Angeles skyscraper where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **11.40** **Film: The Way Back.** (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Ed Harris. **2.00** **Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.15** **Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.10** **Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** (R) **5.25** **Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milksake!** **10.00** **Power Rangers: Megaforce.** **10.35** **Sluggterra.** **11.00** **The Dog Rescuers.** (R) **11.30** **Animal Maternity.** (R) **12.30** **Film: Columbo: Death Lends a Hand.** (1971) **2.00** **Film: Operation Crossbow.** (1965) **4.15** **Film: Operation: Daybreak.** (1975) **6.30** **Lost Heroes of World War One.** The Battle of the Somme. (R) **7.00** **WW1's Tunnels of Death: The Big Dig.** Part two of two. A camera is sent more than 60ft down a German mineshaft. (R) **8.00** **War Hero in My Family.** Ann Widdecombe uncovers the story of her uncle and Quentin Willson finds out about his father, both of whom made valuable contributions during the course of the Second World War. Part of the Britain at War season. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film: Pale Rider.** (1985) A mysterious preacher with lethal gunfighting skills helps a mining community battle a ruthless landowner. Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Michael Moriarty. **11.25** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** An underground drag-racing ring is linked to the deaths of two teenagers. (R) **12.15** **SuperCasino.** **3.55** **Michaela's Wild Challenge.** Michaela has her hands full with two chimps. (R) **4.20** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.50** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes
7.15 Doctor Who **8.00** Top Gear
9.00 MOBO Awards 2013 – Live
11.05 Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Africa **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa **9.00** Inspector Montalbano
10.55 Frank Sinatra: The Voice of the Century – Arena Special
ITV2
4.00 Peter Andre: My Life **5.00** You've Been Framed! **5.30** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.00** Film: Hulk (2003) **10.05** The Xtra Factor **11.05** Celebrity Juice: X Factor Special
ITV3
2.45 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.45** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00** Wire in the Blood
ITV4
3.25 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** I Want That Car **8.00** Hornblower
10.10 Film: Casino (1995) Crime drama, with Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci. Including FYI Daily.
Drama
3.10 Lovejoy **4.10** The Lost World **5.40** Birds of a Feather
7.40 Jonathan Creek. The unconventional sleuth investigates an alleged metamorphosis. **9.00** Waking the Dead. Feature-length episode of the crime thriller, with Trevor Eve. **11.25** Murphy's Law. Murphy investigates racism in the police. James Nesbitt stars.
Film4
3.15 Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) **6.05** The Karate Kid (2010) **8.00** Captain Phillips Interview **9.00** Road to Perdition (2002) Depression-era gangster drama, starring Tom Hanks and Paul Newman. **11.15** Law Abiding Citizen (2009)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 20.10.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Juliet Aubrey (left)

Catherine Cookson's The Moth Drama, 9pm

Based on the Catherine Cookson novels, Jack Davenport stars in a feature-length drama, set in north-east England at the turn of the 20th century. Robert Bradley, a young man of independent mind and spirit, leaves the shipyards to work in his uncle's furniture business but soon finds himself at odds with the old man. So he becomes a servant for the destructive Thormans. Whilst working at the house he falls for the lady of the house, Sarah (Juliet Aubrey). But in 1913 this romance can only lead to upset and disaster.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Liffeline. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.45** The Great British Year. (R) **5.45** BBC News. Regional News. Weather.

6.15 Countryfile. John Craven learns about the Norber Erratics – giant boulders in the Yorkshire Dales – and Ellie Harrison visits industrial sites-turned-nature reserves in Kent.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges.

8.00 The Paradise. New series. Moray has been banished for jilting Katherine, but he is called back when the shop begins to struggle. However, he and Denise's happiness is short-lived.

9.00 By Any Means. A crook kills an innocent bystander during a drug deal, only for MI5 to offer him freedom if he gives up his terrorist connections – so the team tries to bring him down.

10.00 BBC News. Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur.

11.15 MOTO Awards 2013 – Highlights. The best bits from the ceremony, held at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow.

12.45 Weatherview. **12.50** BBC News.

BBC2

7.05 Film: The Velvet Touch. (1948) **8.40** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** What to Eat Now. (R) **12.00** What to Eat Now. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. **2.25** MotoGP. **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** The Flying Scotsman: A Rail Romance. (R) **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys. (R)

6.30 The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek.

7.00 The Great British Bake Off. The four semi-finalists face three French challenges, having to prepare three types of savoury canapés, Charlotte Royale desserts and opera cakes. (R)

8.00 Dive WWII: Our Secret History. Jules Hudson presents the first of two documentaries following a diving team as they search for shipwrecks from the Battle of the Atlantic.

9.00 The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Emperors. Rageh Omar examines why the empire finally collapsed. Last in the series.

10.00 The Wrong Mans. Sam and Phil stumble upon an assassination plot. (R)

10.30 QI XL. Extended edition. With Jo Brand, Graham Linehan and Jimmy Carr.

11.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Sara Cox hosts, with Iggy Azalea, Eliza Doolittle, Jake Humphrey and Matt Richardson. (R)

11.45 Film: Glory Road. (2006) Fact-based sporting drama, starring Josh Lucas.

1.40 Sign Zone. Countryfile. (R) **2.35** Holly City. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Big Time Rush. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25** Film: Columbo: Swan Song. (1974)

12.25 ITV News. Weather. **12.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.40** Fool Britannia. (R) **4.10** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.10** Downton Abbey. (R)

6.10 You've Been Framed! Footballing fun. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. A 10-year-old boy receives an invitation from Samuel L Jackson, Selena Gomez meets two of her biggest fans and Mark Wright delivers a thank-you to a long-time foster parent.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The two least popular acts sing for survival.

9.00 Downton Abbey. An exciting opportunity for Alfred creates tension between Ivy and Daisy. Isobel appeals to Violet's sense of charity and Branson considers a new future for himself and baby Sybil.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Women Behind Bars with Trevor McDonald. (R)

11.20 The Cube. A fitness instructor takes up the challenge. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Nightgreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Ironman 2013. **6.35** The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** Cardiff Half Marathon. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging. (2008) **4.55** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 World's Wildest Weather. Alex Beresford explores strange weather associated with fire, meeting people who have been struck by lightning and examining the "firenado". (R)

8.00 Bigfoot Files. New series. Leading geneticist Bryan Sykes and presenter Mark Evans embark on a global quest to solve the riddle of mysterious creatures such as Yeti and Sasquatch.

9.00 Homeland. Brody finds himself in an increasingly desperate situation and returns to his faith for guidance, while a mysterious man offers to help Carrie in Washington, DC.

10.05 Was It Something I Said? Panel show, with guests Jason Manford and Romesh Ranganathan.

10.40 Toast of London. New series. Comedy following the life of an eccentric actor, starring Matt Berry.

11.10 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **12.10** Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **12.55** American Football Live. Indianapolis Colts v Denver Broncos (Kick-off 1.30am). **4.45** Ironman 2013. (R) **5.15** SuperSimpers. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Mio Mao. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Hana's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Great Birmingham Run. **12.15** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **12.45** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005)

2.35 Film: Big Daddy. (1999) **4.20** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009)

6.10 Royal Babies.

6.10 5 News Weekend.

7.05 Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Comic-book fantasy adventure, with Sean Connery.

9.00 Film: The Rock. (1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller, with Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage. Edited for language.

11.40 Film: Highlander. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Christopher Lambert.

1.55 SuperCasino. **4.25** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Atlantis **7.45** Top Gear Vietnam Special **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Turner's Thames **8.00** Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams **9.00** The World's Most Beautiful Eggs: The Genius of Carl Fabergé **10.00** Medieval Lives: Birth, Marriage, Death **11.00** Turner's Thames

ITV2
1.20 Coronation Street **4.25** You've Been Framed! **4.55** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **6.45** Film: Twister (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Freshers **11.50** Tricked

ITV3
1.50 Jane Eyre **4.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.10** Film: Man About the House (1974) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **10.10** Film: Gregory's Girl (1981)

ITV4
7.10 Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00** Film: Serenity (2005) Sci-fi adventure, starring Nathan Fillion and Summer Glau. Daily. **11.20** Film: Sneakers (1992) Comedy thriller, starring Robert Redford.

Drama
3.00 Catherine Cookson's The Moth **6.00** Bergerac **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine **7.40** Lark Rise to Candleford **9.00** Catherine Cookson's The Moth

Film4
2.45 The Cat Returns (2002) **4.25** King Kong (1976) **7.00** X-Men (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.15** The Omen (2006)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Chaos, Channel 5, 11pm

A veteran cop and his inexperienced new partner are assigned to investigate a bank heist. At first sight, no money appears to have been stolen. However, it eventually emerges the criminal mastermind behind the robbery had a more complex and profitable scheme in mind – and a possible connection to the detective on his trail. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham. (2005)

TUESDAY

A Simple Plan, BBC1, 11.20pm

A lonely 10-year-old boy lives in a building his parents have converted into an old people's retirement home. He initially resents having to share his life with the elderly residents, but when a retired magician comes to stay he strikes up an unlikely friendship and finds his life transformed. Drama, starring Michael Caine. (2008)

WEDNESDAY

Is Anybody There?, BBC1, 11.35pm

A lonely 10-year-old boy lives in a building his parents have converted into an old people's retirement home. He initially resents having to share his life with the elderly residents, but when a retired magician comes to stay he strikes up an unlikely friendship and finds his life transformed. Drama, starring Michael Caine. (2008)



Basic Instinct, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

Wake of the Red Witch, Channel 4, 1.05pm

A ship owner and his embittered captain engage in a battle of wits as they fight for the love of the same woman and embark on a quest for a treasure chest of pearls hidden in the den of an octopus in the South Seas. Romantic seafaring adventure, starring John Wayne, Luther Adler, Gig Young and Gail Russell. (1949)

FRIDAY

Basic Instinct, ITV, 10.35pm

A hard-drinking San Francisco cop investigates the case of a man murdered with an ice-pick, but his normally well-honed intuition starts letting him down as he falls for the sultry and manipulative chief suspect, the victim's former girlfriend. Thriller from director Paul Verhoeven, starring Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, George Dzundza and Jeanne Tripplehorn. (1992)

Halloween H20, BBC1, 11.50pm

Homicidal madman Michael Myers returns to stalk his original target, now an alcoholic teacher, 20 years after his first killing spree, and ends up terrorising a group of teenagers in a deserted school. Horror sequel, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Janet Leigh, Josh Hartnett and Michelle Williams. (1998)

Pick of the Week

Cooking up more tasty treats for the judges

Let's hope that whoever came up with the format for The Great British Bake Off has got a cut of the profits from selling the show to other countries – because if they have, they'll be worth a packet.

It's been sold to around a dozen countries outside the UK, including France, Australia and Poland, with Finland and Holland the latest to jump on the bandwagon.

"We've seen broadcasters around the world put their own special twist on the format to great success, for example with the specialty cakes that are associated with different countries," says Elin Thomas at BBC Worldwide. "Baking is a tradition everyone can relate to so I have no doubt this brilliant format will only continue to win more fans around the world."

What's more, Dutch viewers will also get to see the UK version: "I'm very proud that we will broadcast this series in The Netherlands," explains Jan Slagter, CEO of the channel MAX. "We have a rich baking tradition, from Fries Suikerbrood (Fries sugar bread) to Brabantse worstenbroodjes (Brabantse sausage

rolls). We want to inspire our viewers, so that the whole country will start baking!"

But for now, the only version we're interested in is the original, British one, because it's the week of the final.

Last year's final featured three men – Brendan Lynch, James Morton and John Whaite.

In a shock result, it was John who won. He'd been a bit of a steady Eddie throughout the run, always doing okay without pulling up any trees, and simply made fewer mistakes than his fellow competitors in the last programme, which gave judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood no option but to crown him the winner.

This year it will be very different – not least because the last remaining bloke, English teacher Glenn Cosby, bowed out of the competition in week seven.

Since then, it's been the women fighting it out, but in the nicest possible way, of course. They all clearly want to win, but obviously feel a tad guilty when they see one of

their friends knocked out of the competition.

Last week, Welsh wonder Beca, stylish Frances, ever-smiling Kimberley and doe-eyed Ruby set out to impress by baking the perfect savoury canapés, charlotte royals and opera cake.

As usual there were tears, smiles and yelps of frustration. Expect something similar here, but with 100 times the stress added, in this week's grand finale.

As ever, Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins attempt to mop their furrowed brows.

Janice Hadlow, controller of BBC2, can't wait for the programme either – or, no doubt, to see the ratings figures once they come in: "I'm absolutely thrilled by the phenomenal success of Great British Bake Off – all the ingredients of record ratings, a worthy winner, the expertise of Mary and Paul, wonderful presenters Mel and Sue and a brilliant series put together by Love productions plus of course all those irresistible cakes have come together to make a very special programme for BBC2."



The Great British Bake Off – The Final, Tuesday, BBC2, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Health Freaks

Channel 4, 8.30pm

Many doctors are baffled by patients who are turning to the web for alternatives to conventional treatments, and are getting to hear of more and more extraordinary 'miracle' home remedies. But do any of these cures work? That's what Dr Pixie McKenna, Dr Ellie Cannon and Dr Arjan Panja are keen to find out. In this new series, the docs are on the lookout for simple, safe and scientifically convincing health solutions. If any of the applicants can convince the GPs that there might be something in their remedy, it will be put forward for a trial or test. First in to see the doctors are builders Simon and Andy, who believe WD-40 could be a quick fix for arthritis.

TUESDAY

CSI: New York – The Penultimate Episode

Channel 5, 9pm

So, that's almost it then. After nine years, the second spin-off from Jerry Bruckheimer's slick series is almost at an end. This week, the Big Apple-centric saga bows out with a double bill marking the final appearance of Detectives Mac Taylor and Danny Messer. There's no shortage of variety in the penultimate episode: three separate murders on Valentine's Day. The CSIs are called to investigate when a diabetic man dies from eating 2lbs of chocolate, a company boss is killed at an outdoor farmers' market while on the way to meet his soon-to-be ex-wife, and the demise of a man in a hotel room also leaves the experts with their hands full. Look out for a guest appearance from Josh Groban as himself.

WEDNESDAY

Father Figure

BBC1, 10.35pm

It seems stand-up and panel show appearances aren't enough for today's comedians, and more and more of them are getting their own sitcoms. Jason Byrne's offering, Father Figure, has not been universally well received, but we reckon that's got more to do with the odd timeslot than anything else – despite its late hour, it's actually a nice, innocent slice of fun. Those who have stuck with it so far, though, will need little encouragement to tune in for this final edition. It finds the family in shock, as Elaine announces she could be having another baby, and Tom is aghast. But it could be a false alarm – after all, the only one gaining weight and developing strange food cravings is him.

THURSDAY

No Sex Please, We're Japanese

BBC2, 9pm

With the world's population on the increase, it's surprising to learn that Japan has the opposite problem: various factors, including a rapidly declining birth rate, combine to mean that its population could shrink by as much as a third in just 40 years. But just why are the Japanese having fewer babies? In the first of three documentaries exploring global population trends for the This World strand, Anita Rani heads to the country to explore the otaku culture, which describes

an obsession with computer games, manga and anime. With a growing number of young people, particularly males, spending more and more time immersed in these self-confessed 'geeky' pastimes, some are withdrawing from the dating game entirely. But is it a substitute for the real thing?

Breathless

ITV, 9pm

This 1960s-set hospital drama is certainly aptly named – it's left us open-mouthed and short of breath on many an occasion. This week, as Jean arrives at the hospital with a patient who wants a 'private' procedure, Angela struggles to believe her sister is risking everything to assist with Otto's illegal activities. Meanwhile, Richard is still hurting from his wife's betrayal about the miscarriage, and ends up seeking out a glamorous woman from his past by the name of Margaret, in the hope of rekindling their romance. And Elizabeth is growing tired of Chief Inspector Mulligan's interference, so she hits upon the idea of arranging to meet him, with the hope of getting him off her case once and for all. Jack Davenport and Natasha Little star.

CSI: New York – The Penultimate Episode, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

FRIDAY

Marvel's Agents of SHIELD

Channel 4, 8pm

It was a question on many Marvel fans' lips: once showrunner Joss Whedon handed the writing and directing reins on Agents of SHIELD over to other folks, could they sustain the level of hip, witty brilliance that made the pilot so engaging? Well, there have been times when Agents of SHIELD has been a tad disappointing, but it's still one of the best imports of recent years. This week, Phil Coulson and his cohorts are Asia-bound, where they hope to save a young man with an unusual and dangerous power. Could an elusive girl in a floral dress hold the key to the mystery? Clark Gregg is as good as ever, while fine support comes from Ming-Na Wen, Chloe Bennet and Brett Dalton.

TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks

Channel 5, 9pm

Channel 5 is rather fond of countdown shows, and the broadcaster is giving us another chance to see one that focuses on magic tricks. The problem with magic is that these days, there are so many hi-tech advances being made, a lot of people can either work out how they've been done, or are more impressed by something they can whip up on their laptop at home. Nevertheless, there are a handful of tricks that do stand the test of time, and those are the ones that concern us here.

Contributions come from Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee, Penn and Teller, Dick and Dom, Stephen Mulhern, Joe Pasquale and new magic wunderkind Dynamo.

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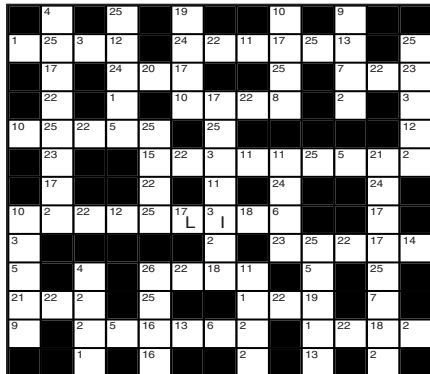
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.243

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Y	B	S	W	F	P	V	C	K	I	Z	R	E
A	X	O	H	G	D	L	U	Q	M	T	N	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

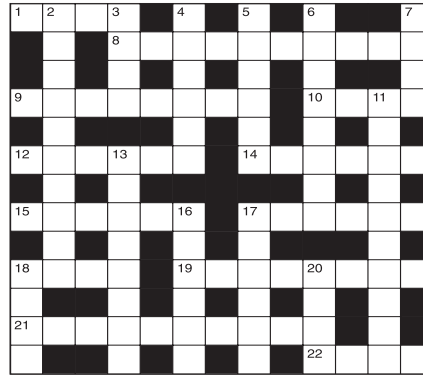
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Store between 180 and 270 degrees (4)
- Knocked down and defeated (10)
- What the bride says afterwards won't be in church! (8)
- Quietly act on an agreement (4)
- Possibly go over a rut (6)
- Side-tracks to avoid the back street (6)
- Cause a disturbance a little way behind the breakwater (6)
- Contract concerning Mussolini (6)
- Farm product from the vale (4)
- Tactful fellow (8)
- There are terms for this (10)
- Rush in three directions at once! (4)

Down

- Offer nothing but solicitous affection? (6,4)
- It's used to make garments, but not the cotton variety (4)
- Bench to determine an issue (6)
- Goes hunting, we hear, for birds (6)
- Offer for money (8)
- It makes fast speed at sea (4)
- Child's play for those who like pulling strings (4,6)
- Forget how to take charge (8)
- An early walk (6)
- Mend a broken rapier (6)
- Pole enters by way of a special permit (4)
- Finished and left (4)



Quick Clues:

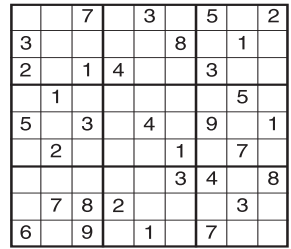
Across

- Jot (4)
- Silence by surprise (6,4)
- Agreeable (8)
- Performs (4)
- Rub out (6)
- Took notice (6)
- Protects (6)
- A planet (6)
- Serpents (4)
- Wins back (8)
- Honest (5,5)
- Transmit (4)

Down

- Crawling (2,3,5)
- A continent (4)
- Lubricate (6)
- Drawing (6)
- Nearby (8)
- Recedes (4)
- Moscow citadel (3,7)
- Rough (8)
- Writer (6)
- Gregarious (6)
- Sad to say (4)
- Joins (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	9	6	8	1	3	1	5
1	5	3	2	7	9	6	4	8
6	8	4	5	1	3	9	2	7
4	9	1	8	6	2	7	5	3
7	3	2	1	9	5	8	6	4
8	6	5	4	3	7	2	9	1
5	1	6	3	2	8	4	7	9
9	4	8	7	5	6	1	3	2
3	2	7	9	4	1	5	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Toast; 8 Opulent; 9 Ailment; 10 Blind; 12 Spirit lamp; 15 Tie-on label; 18 Notch; 19 Icicles; 21 Arsenic; 22 Tempo. Down: 1 Straighten; 2 Habit; 3 Style; 4 Porter; 5 Sunbather; 6 Decimal; 11 Depression; 13 Pentarch; 14 Dentist; 16 Apiece; 17 Flame; 20 Into. QUICK - Across: 7 Moist; 8 Compute; 9 Abysmal; 10 Heart; 12 Oppression; 15 Amateurish; 18 Evolve; 19 Retract; 21 Council; 22 Rouse. Down: 1 Immaculate; 2 Sibyl; 3 Stern; 4 Ocular; 5 Emphasis; 6 Lunatic; 11 Tongue-tied; 13 Pretence; 14 Baroque; 16 Rarely; 17 Vague; 20 Tire.

Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing" Simon B

Good Night Ring

"Don't know how it works but it does, it's amazing" Simon B

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2 days £55

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23 Nov, 7 Dec

2 days £59.95

Winchester Cathedral & Bournemouth Christmas Market

1, 8 Dec

2 days £55

Bath & Cardiff Christmas Markets

30 Nov, 7, 14 Dec

2 days £55

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24 Nov, 1, 8 Dec

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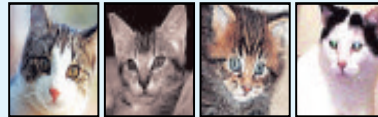
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Timbers

With oak frame timbers throughout, it has a magnificent garden room-style reception room, Walnut and white gloss Sabrina kitchen with appliances, an open plan living room, stunning first floor open plan master



A stylish bathroom at Castle Barns

bedroom and bathroom, three ground floor double ensuite bedrooms, a detached double garage/gym, pony paddock and a pond.

In more detail, the residence is set back behind pillared entrance gates leading to an extensive gravelled forecourt with a feature cedar press.

The garden room-style reception room links two separate converted barns. One of them has two storey accommodation while the other is single storey, housing three double ensuite bedrooms. The two storey section has an open plan lounge and kitchen and the first floor master bedroom and bathroom. The lounge has a bricked feature fireplace with a multi-fuel stove.

For further information contact Allan Morris & Jones on 01562 747755 or go online and visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



A gym forms part of the double garage



Property Auction

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Tuesday 29th October 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am

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Lot No.	Address	Tenure	Guide Price
1	38 BRICKFIELD ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM, B15 8RY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£110,000-£110,000
2	40 SPENGLIE ROAD, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM, B11 4DL	Freehold Vacant Residential	£65,000-£69,000
3	52 OTTESTON ROAD, STICHFORD, BIRMINGHAM, B33 8BJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£115,000-£120,000
4	54 NEWFIELD ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 7BT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£90,000-£95,000
5	UNIT 51, LABRINGTON COURT, TRADING ESTATE, REDDITCH, WEST MIDS, WS10 9DB	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£25,000-£27,000
6	111 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS, B68 0NB	Freehold Vacant Residential	£100,000-£105,000
7	2 WINDSOR ROAD, STICKLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B37 3DU	Freehold Vacant Residential	£70,000-£78,000
8	17 STOUTON COURT, ANGLICAN STREET, BILSTON, WEST MIDLANDS, WY14 8EY	Leasehold Vacant Residential	£25,000-£26,000
9	159 SUMMERSET ROAD, HANDBOROUGH WOOD, BIRMINGHAM, B20 2JF	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£90,000-£95,000
10	252 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS, DY9 7FE	Freehold Vacant Residential	£90,000-£97,000
11	35 BUTTON ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY1 0ST	Freehold Vacant Residential	£70,000-£76,000
12	148 OMBERSLEY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B12 8DD	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£20,000-£41,000
13	48-50 BRIDGE STREET, COLESHILL, BILSTON, WEST MIDLANDS, WY14 8YH	Commercial Investment	£20,000-£25,000
14	FORMER JOB CENTRE, 76-77 PAVIA STREET, WALDALL, WS10 8TB	Freehold Vacant Residential	£100,000-£110,000
15	61 DURHAM ROAD, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM, B11 4QS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£150,000-£175,000
16	COLESHILL HOUSE, 20 COLESHILL ROAD, ABERYSTWYTH, WARRICKSHIRE, CV9 1BW	Freehold Commercial Investment	£250,000-£260,000 + VAT
17	THE HOP POLE HOTEL, 9 MARKET SQUARE, BROMYARD, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR7 4BP	Freehold Vacant Residential	£75,000-£80,000
18	7 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS, B68 0NB	Freehold Vacant Residential	£64,000-£69,000
19	9 NEWMAN ROAD, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS, DY4 1EN	Freehold Vacant Residential	£90,000-£74,000
20	41 PRESLAND DRIVE, WOLVERHAMPTON, WY1 2AE	Freehold Vacant Residential	£90,000-£94,000
21	123 HELL LANE, HALLSALL WOOD, WALDALL, WS10 8AN	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£94,000-£94,000
22	64-65 LODGEFIELD ROAD, HALLESWEN, WEST MIDLANDS, B62 8AR	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£160,000-£180,000
23	244 SCHOOL ROAD, WADLEY WOOD, BIRMINGHAM, B14 4HA	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£94,000-£94,000
24	LAND LOCATED OFF STANWORTH LANE, WILKINSHILL	Freehold Land with Potential	£5,000-£10,000
25	LAND WITHIN 12-14 SAKIN WOOD ROAD, CHESWICK GREEN, SOLIHULL, B38 4AN	Freehold Building Plot	£185,000-£200,000
26	FORMER ALCESTER STREET METHODIST CHURCH, IPSLEY STREET, REDDITCH, B98 4AA	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£125,000-£145,000 + VAT
27	3 HIGH STREET, BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE, B61 8AA	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£190,000-£215,000 + VAT
28	5 HIGH STREET, BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE, B61 8AA	Freehold Vacant Residential	£72,000-£80,000
29	5 DOWDALE AVENUE, WILKINSHILL, WEST MIDLANDS, WY12 4HA	Freehold Vacant Residential	£60,000-£68,000
30	7 BROOKLYN AVENUE, STON, BIRMINGHAM, B6 5BB	Freehold Vacant Residential	£60,000-£72,000
31	2 OLD POSTOWN LUTELLS, BIRMINGHAM, B19 2JH	Freehold Vacant Residential	£55,000-£54,000
32	59 HERVEAUX STREET, WEST WOLVERHAMPTON, WY10 9JL	Freehold Commercial Investment	£180,000-£200,000
33	UNIT 10, CHILLINGTON RD, WEST MIDLANDS, WOLVERHAMPTON, WY1 2BU		
34	DEVELOPMENT LAND BETWEEN 63 & 69 CORNFORD ROAD, TIPTON, DY4 0UQ	Freehold Development Land	£20,000-£32,000
35	31 WANDER ROAD, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS, DY4 8PA	Freehold Vacant Residential	£70,000-£76,000
36	82A BRISTOL ROAD SOUTH, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, B31 2JR	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£50,000-£59,000
37	402 WARWICK ROAD, TIGSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, B11 2NP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£225,000-£235,000
38	30 BEECH GROVE, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B14 4QH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£50,000-£58,000
39	25 BRISTOL ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 7BU	Freehold Vacant Residential	£58,000-£72,000
40	3 LOCK UP GARAGES, 10 LARCH GREEN LANE, REDNA, BIRMINGHAM, B45 8JU	Freehold Garages	£30,000-£40,000
41	GARAGE YARD REAR OF 75-79 BROAD STREET, COVENTRY, CV4 5AX	Freehold Garages	£24,000-£28,000
42	FOR 27 MEDINA ROAD, TIGSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, B11 3BA	Freehold Ground Rent	£2,250-£3,000
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45	1 & 4, 6 & 8, 25 MOUNT PLEASANT, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE, B77 1HL	Freehold Ground Rent	£3,000-£11,000
46	FOR 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 FARMHOUSE, ALDREY, WILKINSHILL, B77 3LJ	Freehold Ground Rent	£10,000-£13,000
47	42, 44, 46 & 48 ST. BLAISE AVENUE, WATER ORTON, BIRMINGHAM, B46 1HT	Freehold Ground Rent	£11,000-£16,000
48	1, 3B, 4B, 4B & 12 BELMONT ROAD, WILKINSHILL, TAMWORTH, STAFFS, B77 3EH	Freehold Ground Rent	£11,000-£16,000
49	FOR 15, 25, 27, 33 ST BELMONT ROAD, WILKINSHILL, TAMWORTH, STAFFS, B77 3EH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£20,000-£24,000
50	168 STAFFORD ROAD, HARTNUTT, CHARNOK, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS17 4BW	Freehold Vacant Residential	£48,000-£54,000
51	168 FORDHOUSE ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON, WY10 9EY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£48,000-£52,000
52	12 CHURCHER CLOSE, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS, B68 1EF	Freehold Vacant Residential	£170,000-£180,000
53	12 WALDALL ROAD, LOPFEST, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS12 8AF	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£170,000-£180,000
54	44 INDUSTRIAL SERVICES LTD, CANALSIDE CLOSE, SOLIHULL, WS19 1NZ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£170,000-£180,000
55	5 DOTT ROAD, MOSLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B15 9JZ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£270,000-£290,000
56	169 COLE VALLEY ROAD, HALL GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B39 0DG	Vacant Residential	£240,000-£250,000
57	148 AND CHARNOKS CONSERVATORY, LONG LANE, HALLESWEN, WEST MIDLANDS, B62 8BT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£150,000-£170,000
58	41 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY1 4SJ	Freehold Residential Investment	£50,000-£59,000
59	106 BLACKMORE ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY1 8YU	Freehold Vacant Residential	£90,000-£74,000
60	LAND AT 1A WORCESTER ROAD, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR11 4JU	Freehold Land	£4,000-£9,000
61	61 HOBARD ROAD, DEER HART, BIRMINGHAM, B47 5DS	Freehold Vacant Residential	£180,000-£195,000
62	LAND AND COAL YARD OFF WORCESTER ROAD, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR11 4JF	Freehold Development Land	£50,000-£55,000
63	LAND PARCELS AT WINGS END FARM, BICKETON, OXFORDSHIRE	Freehold Land	NIL - RESERVE
64	100 WEST END ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY2 0BU	Freehold Vacant Residential	£50,000-£65,000
65	151 WILKINSHILL ROAD, PERRY HALL, BIRMINGHAM, B39 2EE	Freehold Vacant Residential	£80,000-£105,000
66	3 PARK VIEW, GLOVES ROAD, SMALL HEATH, BIRMINGHAM, B10 0AX	Freehold Vacant Residential	£50,000-£59,000

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Container plants need a little frost protection

THE roots of plants growing in containers do not have the protection from cold and frost provided when growing in the soil, and even otherwise hardy plants may become damaged during very cold winters.

So protect the roots and the containers from severe weather by wrapping them in bubble wrap, hessian or, better still, 'duvets' made from plastic bags filled with shredded newspaper, polystyrene chips, roofing insulation or similar materials.

If possible, move the containers against a sheltered wall or close to a building to provide extra protection. Raise the containers on to pot feet or bricks to avoid them sitting in the wet, which can lead to root rotting and cracking of terracotta pots.

Topical tip: Although it's easy to forget about patio planters at this time of year, keep an eye on all container plants to make sure the compost doesn't dry out.

Check the compost and try to keep it evenly moist, without drying out or becoming waterlogged.

Lawns

This is not a major time of year for lawn care, but a little attention now will pay dividends in the spring.

Depending on the weather, the grass may still be growing, so you may still need to mow the lawn.

Raise the height of cut slightly higher than that for summer, since the grass grows more slowly during autumn.

Mowing when the grass needs it will help the lawn to withstand the last of any warm, dry weather and help resist treading when the cold and wet weather arrives. But don't mow when the grass is wet or frozen.

Remove fallen leaves off the lawn before they block out light and air penetration to the grass, which can cause the grass to die.

On large lawns, a powered leaf collector will make the job much easier or remove them using the lawnmower with the blades set at their highest cutting height. This will make it easier than raking and will chop them into smaller pieces that can be added to the compost heap.

Topical tip: Casting worms are often active at this time of year. Sweep away any worm casts to prevent them becoming seed beds for weed seeds to germinate.



A little time spent of the lawn now can pay dividends in spring

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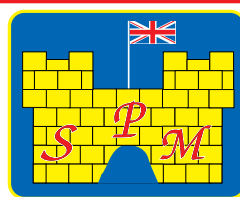
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Figures show that the '13' plate has been the best selling six month period for new car sales in five years

THE '13' registration number has proved lucky for new car sales in the UK as it has been the best selling six-month period in nine registration plate changes.

From March 1 to the end of August, the number of 13-plate cars sold totalled 1,115,459 in the UK to make this the most successful new car sales period in five years.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which compiles new car sales information, says this bodes well

for the 63-reg that began on September 1. It reckons more the £6 billion will be spent on new cars in the six months from September 1 to the end of February 2014.

"We have seen a strong performance from the new car market throughout 2013, with the number of cars registered increasing in July for the 17th successive month," said Mike Baunton, SMMT interim chief executive.

"Now we have evidence of consistent growth, we have raised our forecast for 2013 new car registrations to 2.216

million units, an increase of over eight per cent on last year," he added.

"In line with this positive trend, we expect the new 63 plate to be very successful and for September registrations to provide a similar peak to that seen in March."

March is typically the month for the highest number of registrations, with September coming a close second. More than a third of annual registrations occur in March and September combined, with the other months typically accounting for 6.5 per cent of the annual total.



The 513bhp Porsche 911 Turbo Cabriolet has a top speed of 197mph and costs £126,766

THE new Porsche 911 Turbo Cabriolet has been revealed ahead of its launch at the Los Angeles Motor Show.

The model takes a largely familiar format to models that have gone before it, but this time the German firm's releasing two Turbo models at the same time.

The 513bhp Turbo Cabriolet will be the entry point to the forced-induction 911 duo, starting at £126,766 before options. Thanks to four-wheel drive, it can sprint from 0-62mph in 3.5 seconds – 0.3 seconds slower than its coupe counterpart.

It shares a 197mph top speed and a fuel economy average of 28.5mpg with the more powerful Turbo S model, which completes the industry-standard launch to 62mph in just

3.2 seconds. It does, however, cost £149,511, which takes account of some improved interior appointments and upgraded features over the Turbo.

The two new 911s have been built with a new, wider bodysell that adds 28mm to the overall width at the rear wheels compared to the widest current 911. Previously, Turbo models have used the Carrera 4's already widened shell. Both new models share the same roof, which uses a new design of folding mechanism to better mimic the shape of the 911 coupe's silhouette.

As before, the electric mechanism can be raised and lowered at up to 31mph, with this iteration taking a brisk 13 seconds to switch between either position.

More details will be revealed closer to the models' debut at the LA Show in November.

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A selection of stock at the Wellington Road site.

After three decades providing cars to the people of Dudley and the surrounding areas, Delph Garage offers its customers something money can't buy - Peace of Mind. The family run dealership in Wellington Road, Dudley recently celebrated its 38th Anniversary, an incredible achievement and one that really sets them out from the crowd. The firm was founded in Anchor Hill, Brierley Hill by Colin Nash in 1975. After ten years of steady growth the business moved to its current location in 1985 and Colin was joined in the business by eldest sons, Warwick and James in 1994.

A quick chat with James reveals the firm's longevity is not the only aspect that separates them from the rest of the field. "We are one of the very few independent Dealerships in the area equipped with our own Servicing and MOT Department on site. This really gives our customer base a sense of reassurance, knowing that we are more than able to carry out the job in a manner more in keeping with the dealer groups."

Warwick has noted a dramatic increase in repeat business over the last few years. "Right from the outset, Dad has drummed into James and I the importance of showing a real care and quality of service to the customer, knowing future business is generated from this. We have experienced a big upturn in repeat business, especially over the last few years."

The Company has now built up an enviable reputation for providing a professional, yet friendly service. The Dealership specialises in providing quality used cars from £2995 to £5995 and has forged a close working relationship with prime Finance Company Moto-Novo (formerly Carlyle Finance) who can settle existing finance and arrange a competitive payment on any car in stock.

Speaking of the Company's high standards, Warwick added "Unlike a large proportion of Used Dealers, every car that leaves us is supplied with a Full Service, Full MOT, an 82-Point Pre-Delivery Inspection, Comprehensive Warranty and is HPI checked and clear."

Delph Garage is open 6 days a week and has an impressive website at www.delphgarage.co.uk which features every car in stock with 16 colour images and a detailed description.

So with a reputation built up over nearly four decades, a genuine commitment to its customer base and a family feel to the place, Delph Garage looks well equipped to serve the Black Country Car Market for many more years to come.



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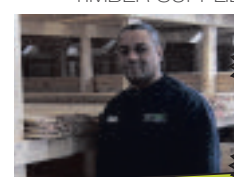
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personal

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DK come off worse in Hull of a contest

Dudley Kingswinford 20 Hull 25

DUDLEY started the game very strongly pinning Hull inside their own 22 for the first 10 minutes.

The visitors counter-attacked and scored a good try through their left winger Dominic Lespierre. James Cameron converted.

Hull pressure produced a penalty in front of the posts and Cameron kicked the simple goal.

DK fought back with full back Connah Jones going over for a try but Bown missed the conversion.

In the second half Hull's prop forward Lloyd Harrison forced his way over, with Cameron missing the conversion. The visitors increased their lead on 65 minutes with another penalty from Cameron.

Then Hull No.7 Ben Dorrington raced half the length of the pitch to score with Cameron adding the extras.

Now 17 points adrift and with nothing to lose Dudley pressed forward and Nick Murphy forced his way over for an unconverted try.

Skipper Ed Parry scored with Gareth Bown converting.

Club teams stake place in relay race

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had four teams taking part in the relay races at Walsall Arboretum as part of the Midlands Cross Country Championships.

Pete Walters, Ben Loach, Adam Crompton and Steven Burch were Stourbridge A team and came 29th with a combined time of 1.45.

Stourbridge B, Errol Cumberbatch, Paul Giles, Stuart Floyd and Andy Bernasconi completed the race in 1.51.

Stourbridge 'Masters', Adam Harris, Andy Aston, Matt Sutton and Paul Bradley logged 1.47.

The ladies team of Joan Clarke, Chloe Pearson and Natalie Dellar and their time was 1.30.

Also last weekend was the Badgers Bite - a 6k multi-terrain race organised by Black County Triathletes.

First for the club was Tim Gardner with a time of 26.25, second was Sebastian Nicolas 27.37 and Steven Burch crossed the line in 32.14.

Saxons battle elements and opponents

Sheffield Tigers 14 Stourbridge Saxons 17

THE Saxons got their first taste of winter rugby at Dore More, a gale force wind and incessant drizzle making handling difficult and forcing the pack to shoulder most of the ball carrying duties.

Trailing 14-10 at the break with a man in the sin bin, it looked ominous for the visitors as they faced 40 minutes playing uphill and into the wind, but the pack set siege to Sheffield's goal line and the pressure finally told, the hosts shipping a rash of penalties and two yellow cards and their depleted defences were finally breached in the 65th minute.

Having penalised loosehead Mike Hill just two minutes previously for twisting in the

Rugby

scrum, referee Brendan McGaffney took exception to something that was said just a couple of minutes later as a scrum formed in the Saxons' 22, giving Sheffield's goalkicker Carrington a fairly straightforward knock-over from in front of the posts.

The Saxons regained possession following the restart and Pete White looked to launch an attack down the narrow side, but disastrously his flat pass was well read and intercepted by Sheffield fullback Peter Swatkins who ran in for a try.

It got worse shortly after when a penalty enabled Carrington to land a second score.

A well-executed catch and drive routine

saw Chris Depper crash over wide right from the back of a driven maul. Jamie Hearn's conversion was wide Saxons scored again with almost an instant replay.

Playing against wind and slope, the best measure of the Saxon's second half domination is not so much the 0-7 points tally, rather the 10 to 1 penalty count against Sheffield. Seven of them were within the range of Hearn's boot, but tries were the currency the Saxons sought.

The Saxons won a lineup, launching a driving maul from which they launched a second wave of drives down the narrow side that finally saw tighthead Mark George driven over for the score. Hearn slotted a difficult conversion. The game lost its shape a

little with a rash of substitutions and handling errors, Sheffield got little traction in attack and continued to cough up penalties enabling the Saxons to control play.

The final whistle sounded on what had been a dogged, if not a classic performance that ground out a deserved victory.

After the game coach Mike Umaga said: "It was always going to be tough here, Sheffield had a lot to prove and we knew they wouldn't just roll over, no way does their bottom of the table position reflect how dangerous they are as a side."

Conditions were difficult and we could have been smarter in our approach to the game, particularly early on when we made plenty of mistakes, but belief was key."

Lye stay unbeaten as sending off takes toll

Ellesmere Rangers 1 Lye Town 2
LYE TOWN'S away defeat of Ellesmere Rangers left the home side's boss Delwyn Humphries raging at the referee claiming his 10-man side got none of the breaks against their unbeaten opponents.

Rangers were ahead and in control through a fourth-minute diving header from Dan Graham before they suffered defeat for the eighth time in 12 games.

He flung himself at the ball to meet Marco Adaggio's right-wing cross. But the result only tells half the story with the Beech Grove men desperately unfortunate not to earn some reward.

The game turned against the Meresiders just before half-time.

Chopped

They had been in the driving seat for most of the time when Josh Parker chopped down a Lye attacker to concede a penalty.

The referee immediately sent the defender off and the visitors netted from the penalty spot.

Ellesmere considered Parker to be unfortunate to collect a red card, claiming there were two covering defenders and that the Lye forward was going away from goal.

Rangers continued to battle manfully a player light in the second half, but were eventually sunk by a

Football

Lye winner 15 minutes from time. Adaggio and substitute Matthew Ryan both hit the post for Ellesmere after the break.

That misfortune proved costly as Alex Hall's poor header back to his goalkeeper allowed Lye to bag an 80th-minute winner.

Manager Humphries criticised the red card decision.

"The referee's mistake has cost us," said the Rangers boss.

"All I asked him to do was go and ask his linesman whether our defender was the last man.

"There were two of our lads around him, but he said he had denied the attacker a clear 'goal-scoring opportunity'."

Ellesmere's director of football Alan Davis said: "It was an encouraging performance."

"We might easily have been 3-1 up at half-time as we hit the woodwork a couple of times."



Damien Whitcombe's penalty for Lye Town beats Ellesmere keeper Anthony Price. Pics: Ian Sheppard

Club gets good start in victory by default

THE week started for Stourbridge chess club with a default win in Wolverhampton Division 3 chess league when Stafford were unable to get a team assembled for the long journey.

On Tuesday the Dudley Division 3 team (Max grade 115) travelled to Brewood and lost 1.5-2.5.

Colin Wodall won his game and Steve Alcock drew. Junior player Charlie Ann Arkell was unlucky when she blundered to lose the game.

On Wednesday the club was at home to Lichfield in Birmingham Division 3.

Having lost their opening two fixtures the club really needed to get a win.

The team managed to win 3.5-2.5 with wins for Steve Jukes and John Foxall.

The next night, the first team also had to face Lichfield but this time away in Birmingham Division 1.

Unfortunately they were unable to repeat the second team's success and lost 2.5-3.5 with Greg Dyett being the only winner for Stourbridge.

Stourbridge fields teams in the Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Worcester and Dudley leagues. Visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more information.

Glassboys grab a win in fightback

Stourbridge 3 Corby Town 1

A ROUSING second-half fight-back from Gary Hackett's men saw them secure a fifth successive victory after they had trailed to a goal from ex-Glassboy Stuart Hendrie at the break.

Six minutes before the interval Corby grabbed the lead with persistence from Berwick as he gained possession and delivered a cross from the right that allowed Stuart Hendrie to score.

The hosts swept up-field to draw level with Jordan Fitzpatrick managing to stay outside before tucking a low shot past Walker.

In the 68th minute Stourbridge forged in-front as Richards rose highest to head home.

Nine minutes later the home side made it three when Benbow fired and his shot was turned into the net by Brad Gascoigne for an own goal.



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Robins come to the four in derby

**Cradley Town 2
Dudley Town 4**

DUDLEY TOWN maintained their perfect West Midlands Premier away record after a three-goal burst in 11 second-half minutes settled the derby clash with Cradley Town.

It was the visitors who scored first when Rob Whitley rose above the Cradley back line to power his side into the lead.

Parity was soon restored when a low corner deceived Tommy Harper in the Dudley goal, allowing Chris Bladen to steal in at the far post and rack up his 12th goal of the campaign so far.

The second half started with both sides looking dangerous in attack.

However the game turned with the introduction of Dreniz Bala in the 63rd minute.

The Croat was the architect to restore Dudley's lead just two minutes later when a neat passing move with Craig Stevens allowed space for Adam Callinswood to fire a low shot past Jones.

It was 3-1 just moments later, Bala's low pass finding Rion Francis-Mills to score.

Dudley got a fourth, Craig Stevens smashing home a drive on 76 minutes after good work again from Bala.

With three minutes to go, Ross Love turned the ball past his own keeper but it was too late for a Cradley comeback.

Tivs make it nine for nine

**Tividale FC 2
Rochester FC 0**

TIVIDALE made it nine out of nine in the MFA league with a hard fought but deserved victory against a gallant Rochester side.

Comparing the relevant positions in the league table and current form. On paper this was down as a comfortable home win, but it was far from it.

It wasn't until 10 minutes before time that the stalemate was broken.

Nathan Waite got the ball on the edge of the box and as keeper Smith came out to close him down he coolly passed the ball past him and into the bottom left hand corner.

On 83 minutes it was 2-0. This time it was sub Jason Chilton's free kick to the far post that was headed back across the box by Richard Huckfield and there was Waite on hand to fire home the second.

Lee has lessons to learn for squad place

LEE EVANS has been urged to learn his lessons to force his way back into the Wolves midfield and progress to the next level.

The 19-year-old midfielder took to social networking site Twitter to vent his frustration at being left out of the side for Wolves recent 3-0 win at Colchester, the third successive League One game he has missed.

Evans and David Davis have been replaced by Kevin McDonald and Jack Price in central midfield.

Before the game, Evans tweeted "another Saturday with no game #headsgone" then added "disappointed not to travel this week but hopefully the boys come back with three

Football

points" before deleting his first tweet. Evans, who started six of Wolves' opening seven league matches, was unavailable for the Johnstone's Paint Trophy penalty shoot-out exit to Notts County as he was with Wales Under-21s.

Head coach Kenny Jackett believes Evans, a £200,000 transfer window capture from League Two new-boys Newport, must now develop certain aspects of his play to move on.

"There's a way of showing your frustra-

tion; he's just gone 19 and he's had half a dozen games," said Jackett. "Our midfield hasn't necessarily looked as convincing as it should at times. We've had better departments so we've changed things around. We started with David Davis and Lee, and at present, Kevin McDonald and Jack Price have been playing. That's not to say Lee won't come back into the team; I think he will.

"He just has to go about things the right way and learn.

"He's got a good all-round game - his range of passing is as good as anyone here, he can run, his enthusiasm is good and he

can come up with a goal. But his test is to ensure when he plays in a central midfield two, he plays well positionally, so he doesn't vacate the area too much, plays from behind the ball and backs up a four-man forward line, in whichever formation they play in. He has to learn because if you leave that area in front of the centre-halves open too much, teams can give you problems the higher you go. "But I'm pleased with what he's done and he has a really bright future."

Meanwhile, captain-for-the-night Richard Stearman has insisted Wolves can bounce back from their Johnstone's Paint Trophy exit to Notts County.

Hopes of big crowd for final

DUDLEY Heathens are expecting the biggest crowd since their relaunch when they celebrate the league title at the Knockout Cup Final on Tuesday, October 29.

The former Cradley club will face either Isle of Wight or old rivals Mildenhall at Monmore as they look to complete a clean sweep of National League honours.

Heathens won the National League title for the first time with back-to-back wins over King's Lynn last week when more than 300 fans travelled to Norfolk from the Dudley and Cradley area.

The club are hoping fans who went to the old Dudley Wood on a regular basis but haven't been to a Dudley meeting will come along and show their support for the cup final.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "I'm well aware there are Cradley fans who haven't been to a Heathens meeting since we reformed in 2010 for various reasons.

"There are some who won't because it's not Cradley - but I would say this is the next best thing.

Admission for the October 29 event has been pegged at £11 adults, £8 concessions and £2 children.

Sports still can't get consistency

**Smethwick 1
Dudley Sports 0**

DUDLEY SPORTS' inconsistent season continued when they lost at Smethwick in the West Midlands Premier.

Sports could have gone in front but Jack Hickman shot straight at the keeper.

James Beadle settled matters with a 30-yard thunderbolt.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford, Thursday, October 17, 2013.

THE Glassboys are dreaming of another FA Cup adventure after booking their place in the final qualifying round.

They claimed victory over their opponents from the Tameside area of Greater Manchester who came into this contest unbeaten in the Evo-stik League First Division North.

Gary Hackett's men made a lightning start aided by a costly error by visiting custodian Hakan Burton that gifted Stourbridge a fourth minute lead.

Leon Broadhurst tried to slip a low through pass into the run of Ben Billingham, but the ball was slightly over-hit and Burton advancing from his line towards the edge of his box got there first and dived to claim the ball, only for it to slip from his grasp on the damp surface and run invitingly to Ryan Rowe who calmly stroked the ball past the keeper and into the unguarded net.

Torrid

After enduring a torrid opening spell, Curzon Ashton began to settle and pose more problems for the home side.

Stourbridge doubles their lead in the 26th minute as Jamie Oliver returned from suspension to glance home a header from Ben Billingham's right-wing corner.

The visitors sought an immediate reply with Matt Warburton hitting a low 20-yard drive that Coleman dived down to his right to save, but he was unable to hold and the ball had to be

Football

clear.

Stourbridge lost Nathan Bennett from the heart of their defence on 36 minutes with a twisted ankle with Oliver slotting in alongside Will Richards and Paul Lloyd introduced at left-back.

In the 43rd minute Curzon momentarily thought they had halved the deficit when Hampson found Chris McDonagh on the right and his low cross was turned in by Warburton, but his celebrations were cut short by an offside flag.

Following a lively first 45 minutes, the second period didn't carry the same level of drama and excitement, although the home side were relieved when Curzon had a second goal ruled out for offside on 61 minutes after Ryan Watson fired home from Warburton's pass.

A goal-kick from Coleman was headed by Rowe into the path of Billingham on the right and he took a return pass in his stride, however his low shot was too close to Burton.

Stourbridge grabbed a third goal just before the end with Geddes supplying a ball forward through the right channel area and Luke Benbow took it home.



Jamie Oliver, centre, celebrates after putting Stourbridge 2-0 up against Curzon Ashton

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